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PANTHA

Once queen to Pharoah Diogenes Hamset II, Pantha saw her future threatened by the birth of a son to the Pharoah and one of his consorts and turned to the goddess Sekhmet to grant her the eyes of all Egypt's felines. Then in an act of utter evil, she had every male child in the land slaughtered. Angered, Sekhmet cursed Pantha to eternal life, trapped between the forms of human and panther, forever to be tormented by her deeds...

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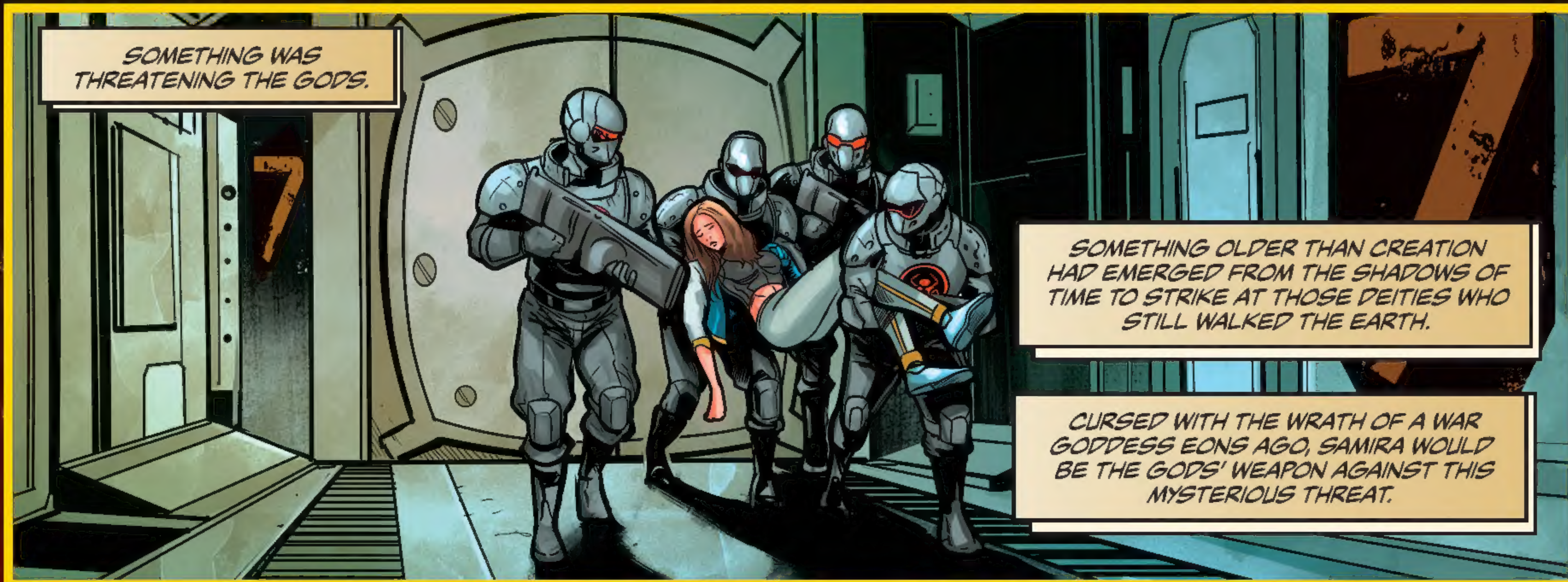
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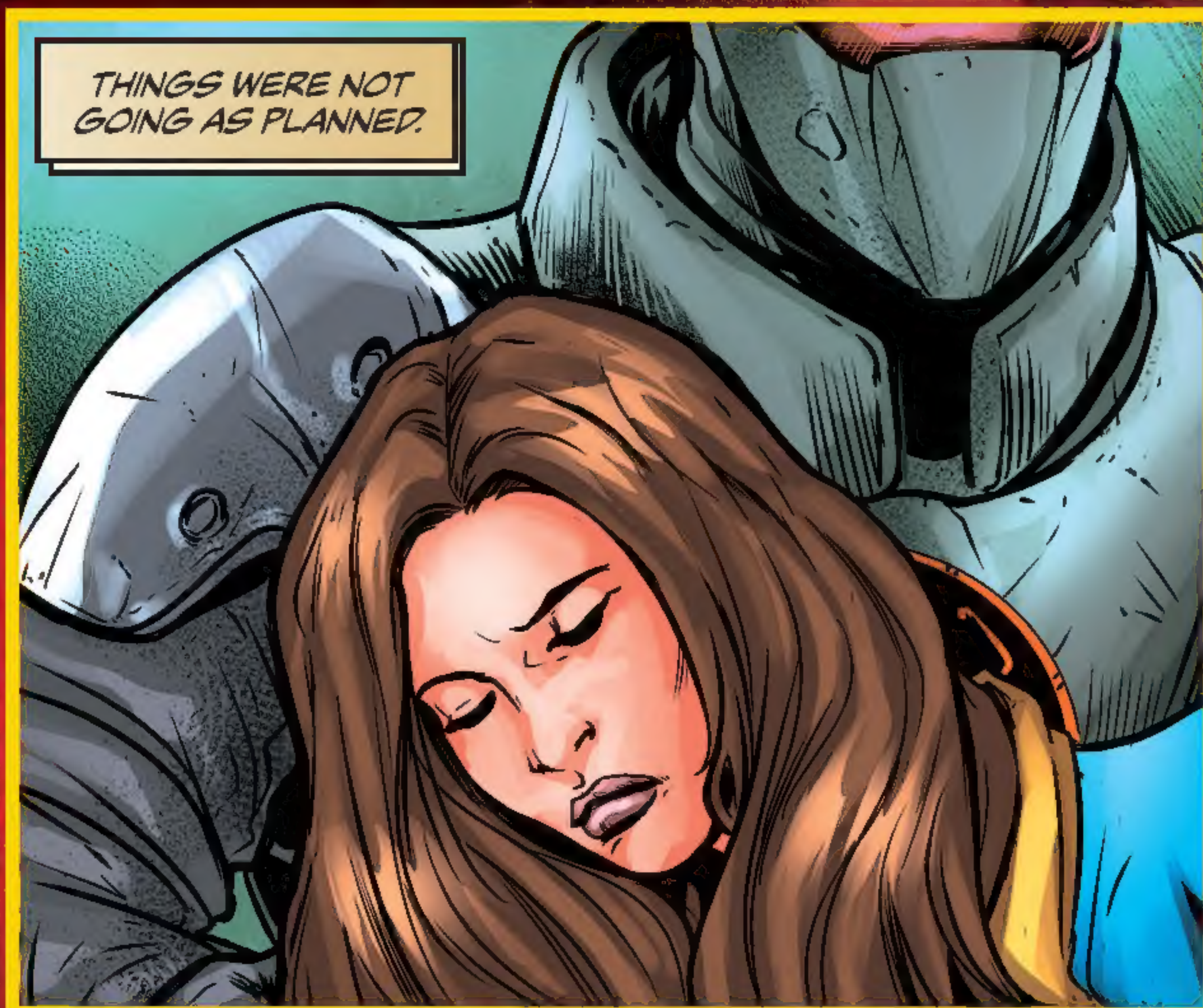
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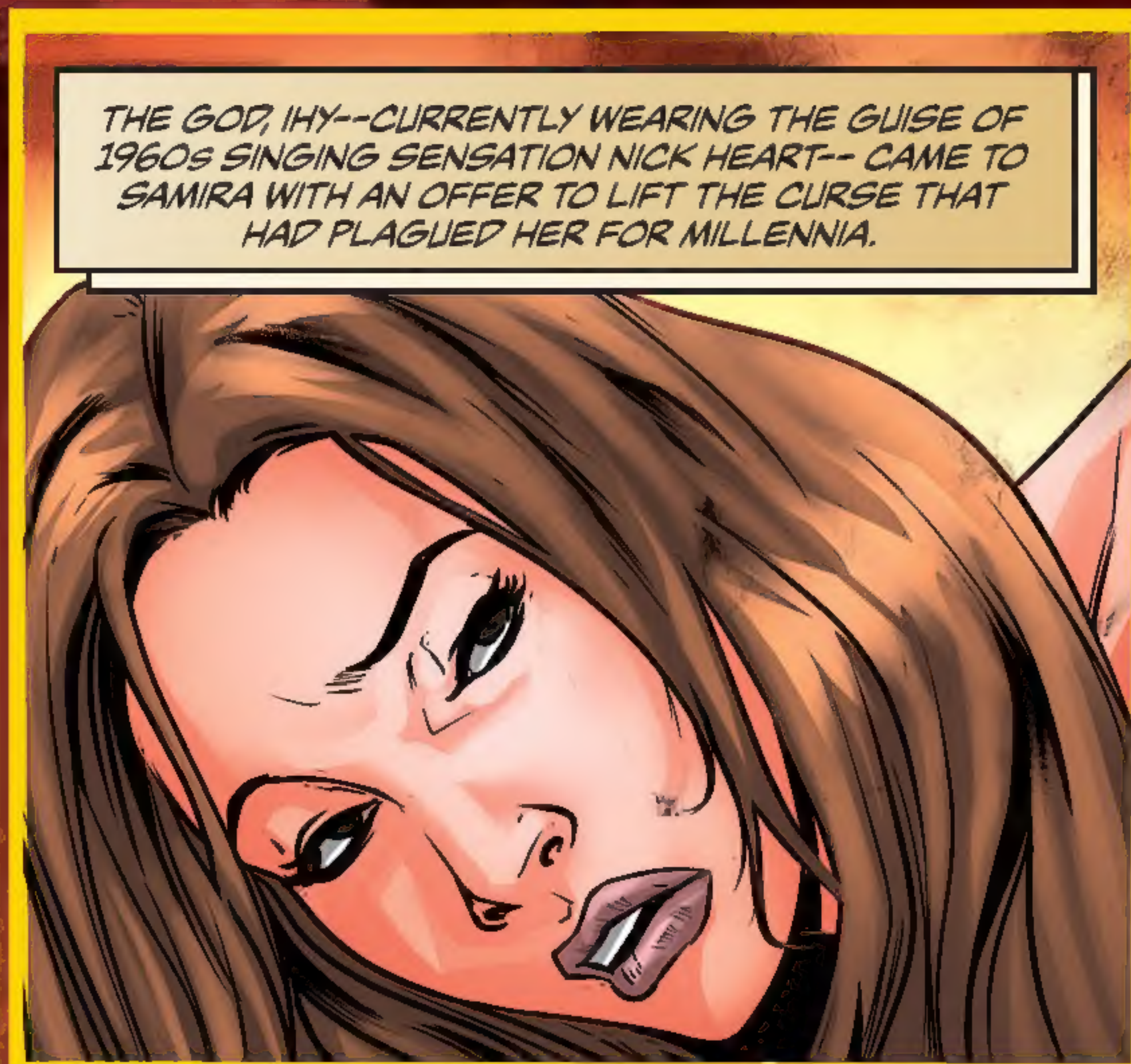
SOMETHING WAS
THREATENING THE GODS.

SOMETHING OLDER THAN CREATION
HAD EMERGED FROM THE SHADOWS OF
TIME TO STRIKE AT THOSE DEITIES WHO
STILL WALKED THE EARTH.

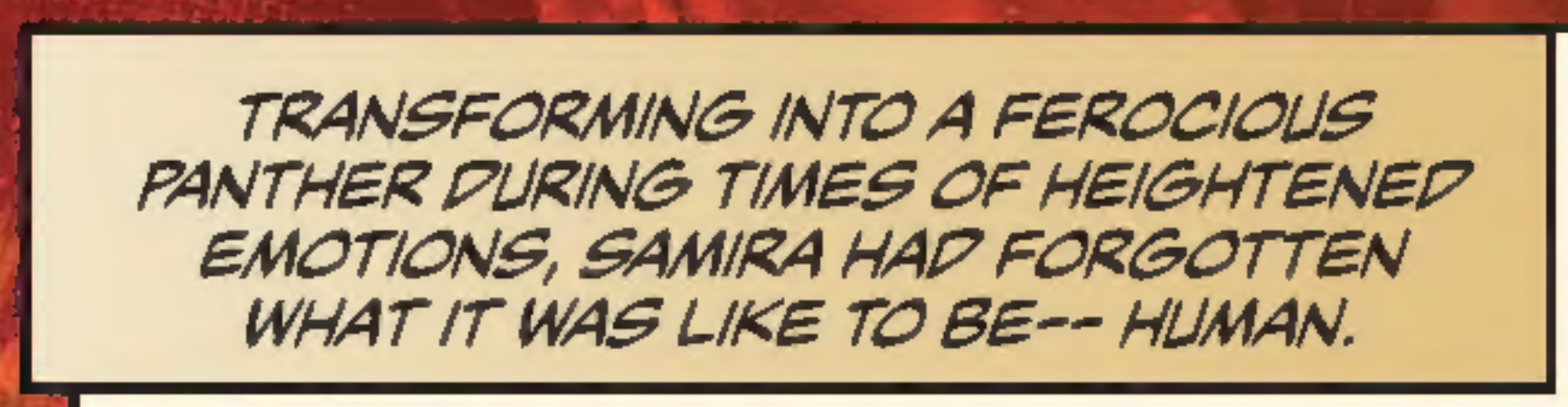
CURSED WITH THE WRATH OF A WAR
GODDESS EONS AGO, SAMIRA WOULD
BE THE GODS' WEAPON AGAINST THIS
MYSTERIOUS THREAT.



THINGS WERE NOT
GOING AS PLANNED.



THE GOD, IHY--CURRENTLY WEARING THE GUISE OF
1960S SINGING SENSATION NICK HEART-- CAME TO
SAMIRA WITH AN OFFER TO LIFT THE CURSE THAT
HAD PLAGUED HER FOR MILLENNIA.



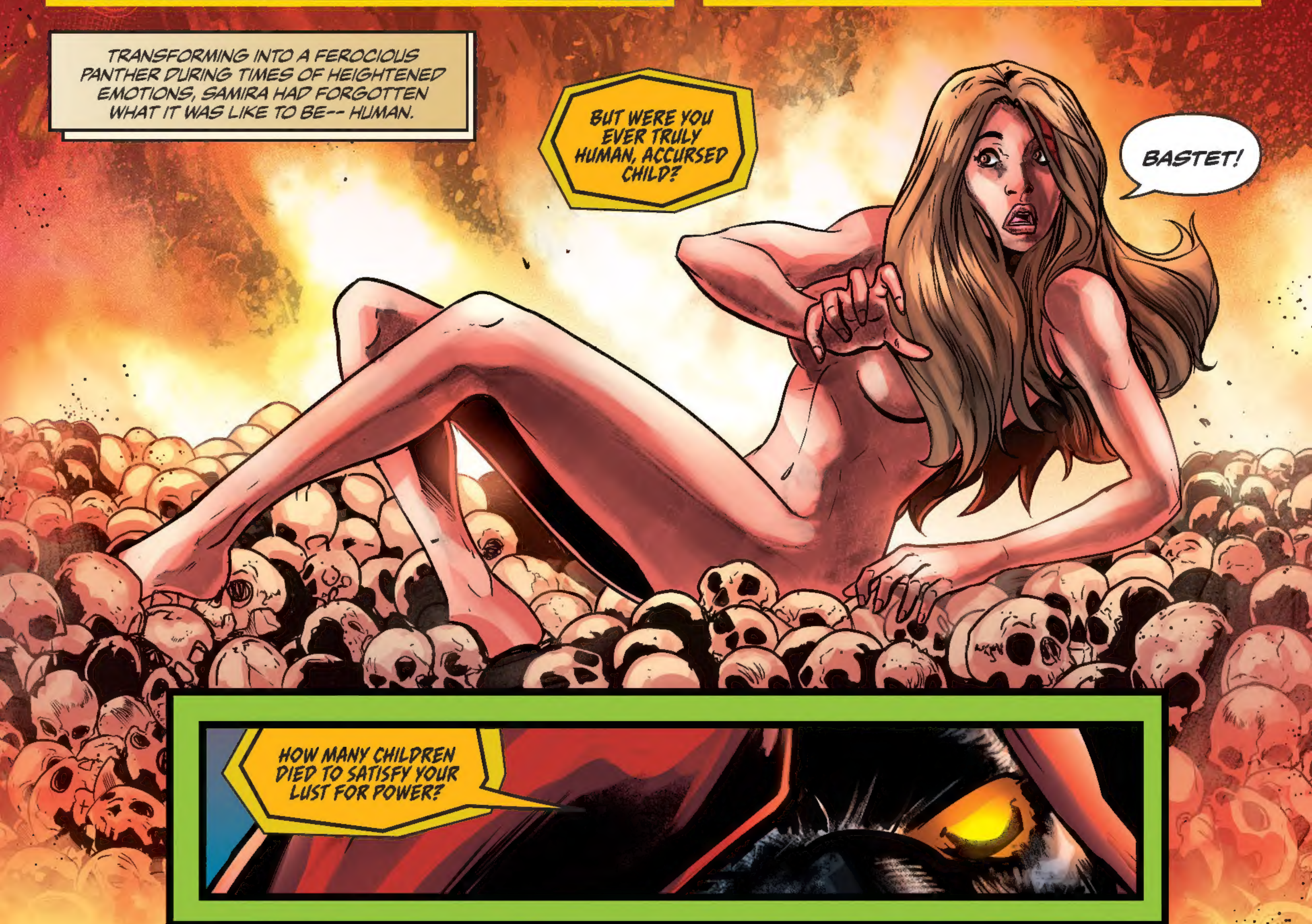
TRANSFORMING INTO A FEROCIOUS
PANTHER DURING TIMES OF HEIGHTENED
EMOTIONS, SAMIRA HAD FORGOTTEN
WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE-- HUMAN.



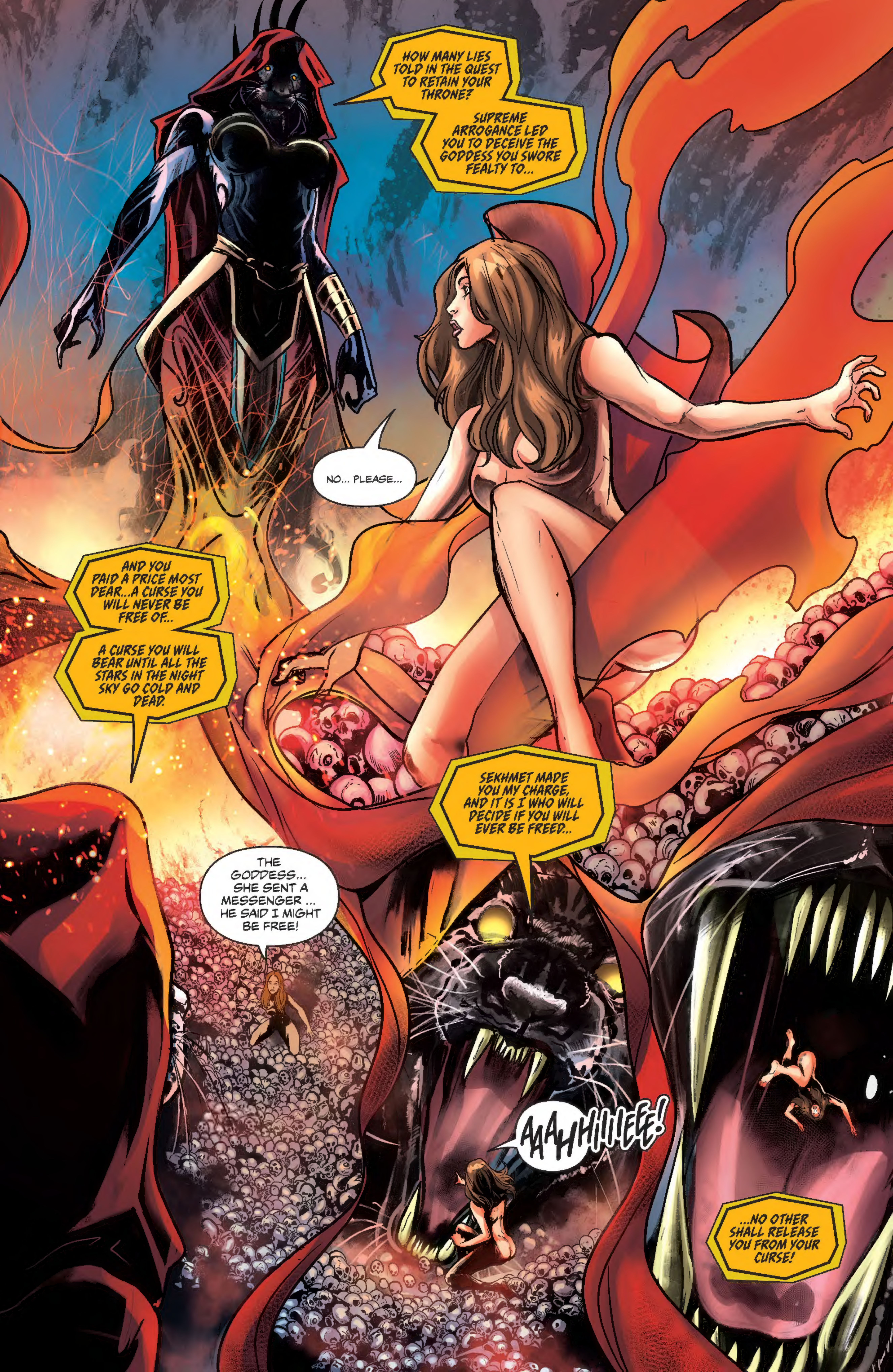
BUT WERE YOU
EVER TRULY
HUMAN, ACCURSED
CHILD?



BASTET!



HOW MANY CHILDREN
DIED TO SATISFY YOUR
LUST FOR POWER?



HOW MANY LIES
TOLD IN THE QUEST
TO RETAIN YOUR
THRONE?

SUPREME
ARROGANCE LED
YOU TO DECEIVE THE
GODDESS YOU SWORE
FEALTY TO...

NO... PLEASE...

AND YOU
PAID A PRICE MOST
DEAR...A CURSE YOU
WILL NEVER BE
FREE OF...

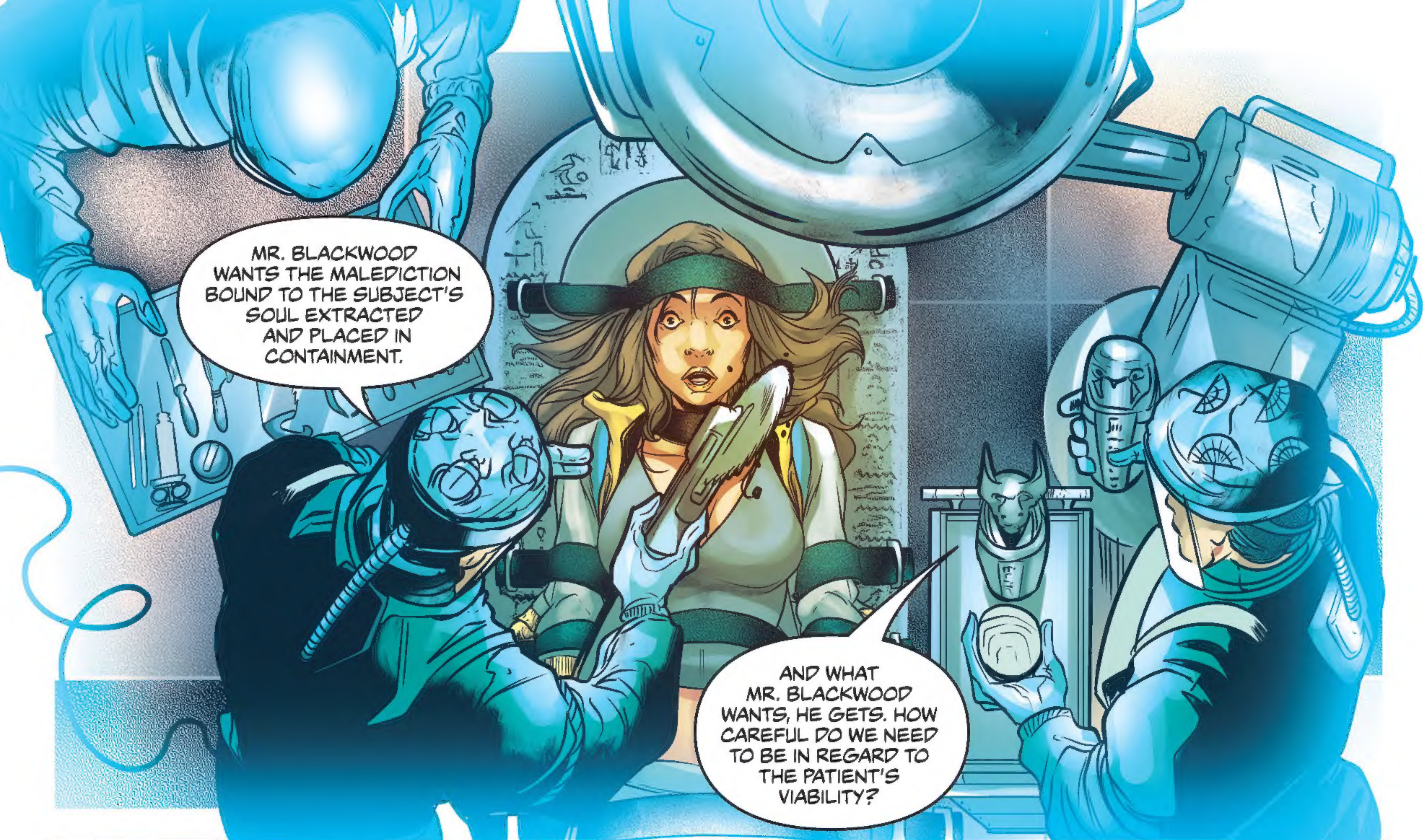
A CURSE YOU WILL
BEAR UNTIL ALL THE
STARS IN THE NIGHT
SKY GO COLD AND
DEAD.

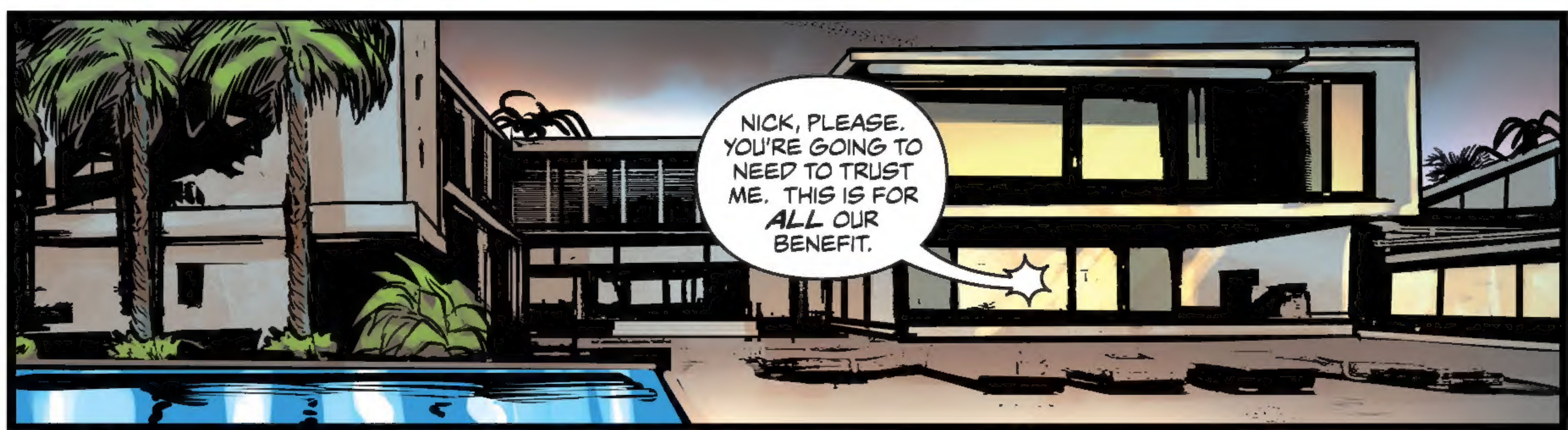
SEKHMET MADE
YOU MY CHARGE,
AND IT IS I WHO WILL
DECIDE IF YOU WILL
EVER BE FREED...

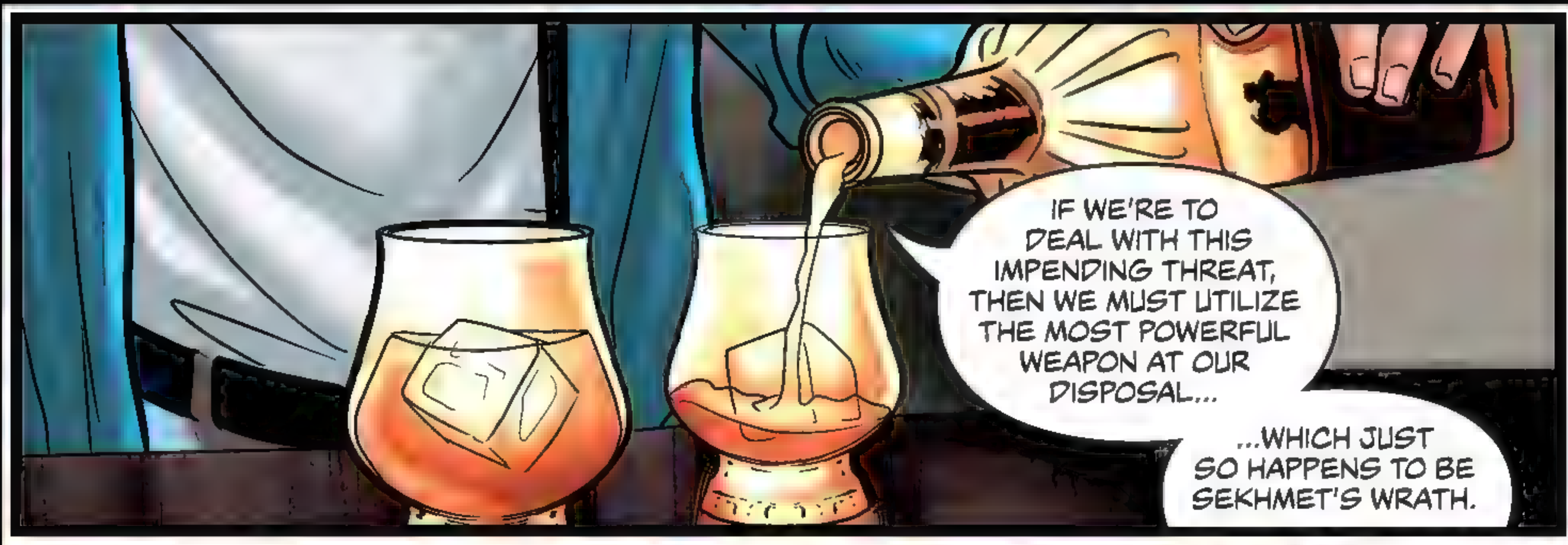
THE
GODDESS...
SHE SENT A
MESSENGER ...
HE SAID I MIGHT
BE FREE!

AAAAHHH!!!

...NO OTHER
SHALL RELEASE
YOU FROM YOUR
CURSE!







IF WE'RE TO DEAL WITH THIS IMPENDING THREAT, THEN WE MUST UTILIZE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON AT OUR DISPOSAL...

...WHICH JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE SEKHMET'S WRATH.

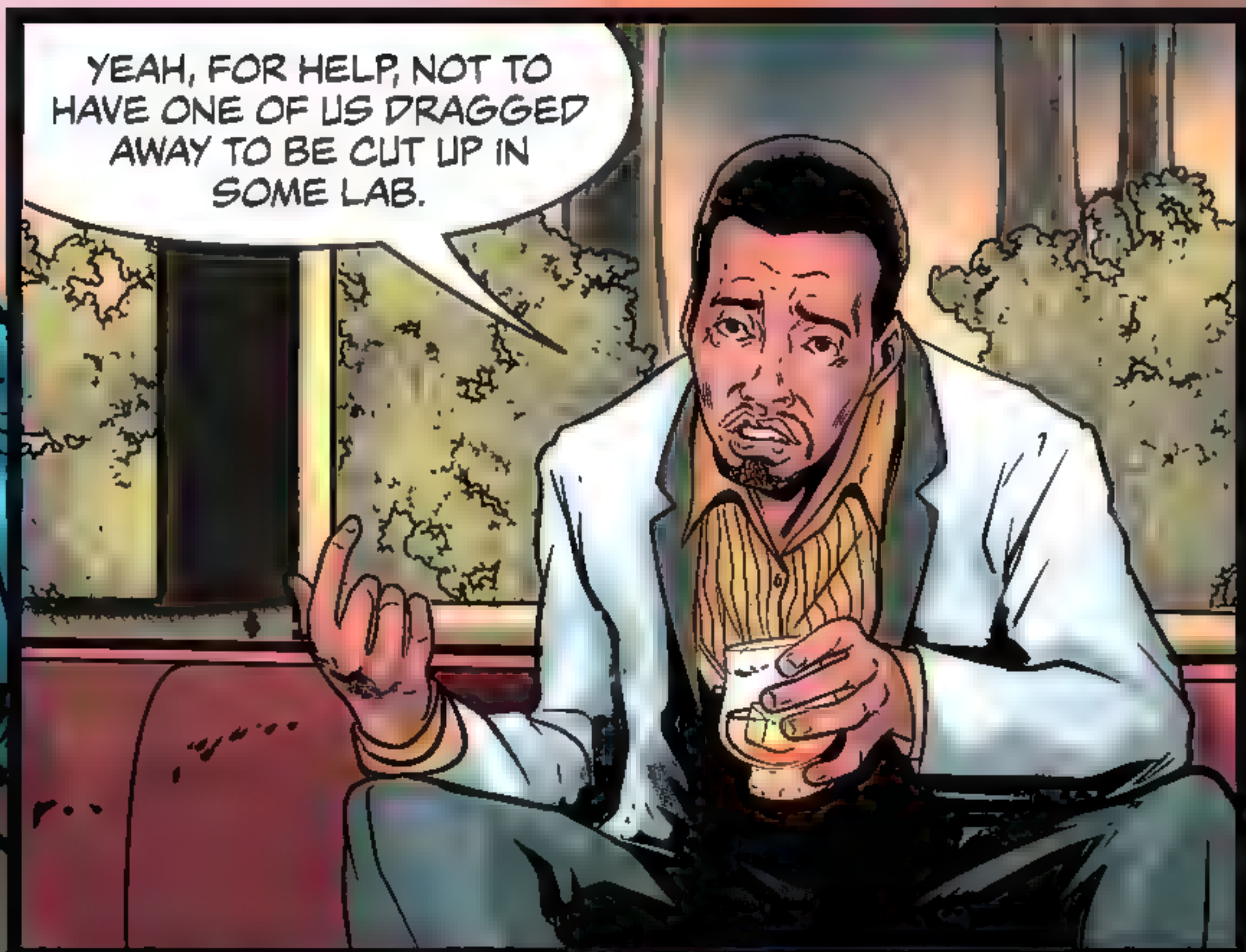


HERE, HAVE A DRINK, RELAX.

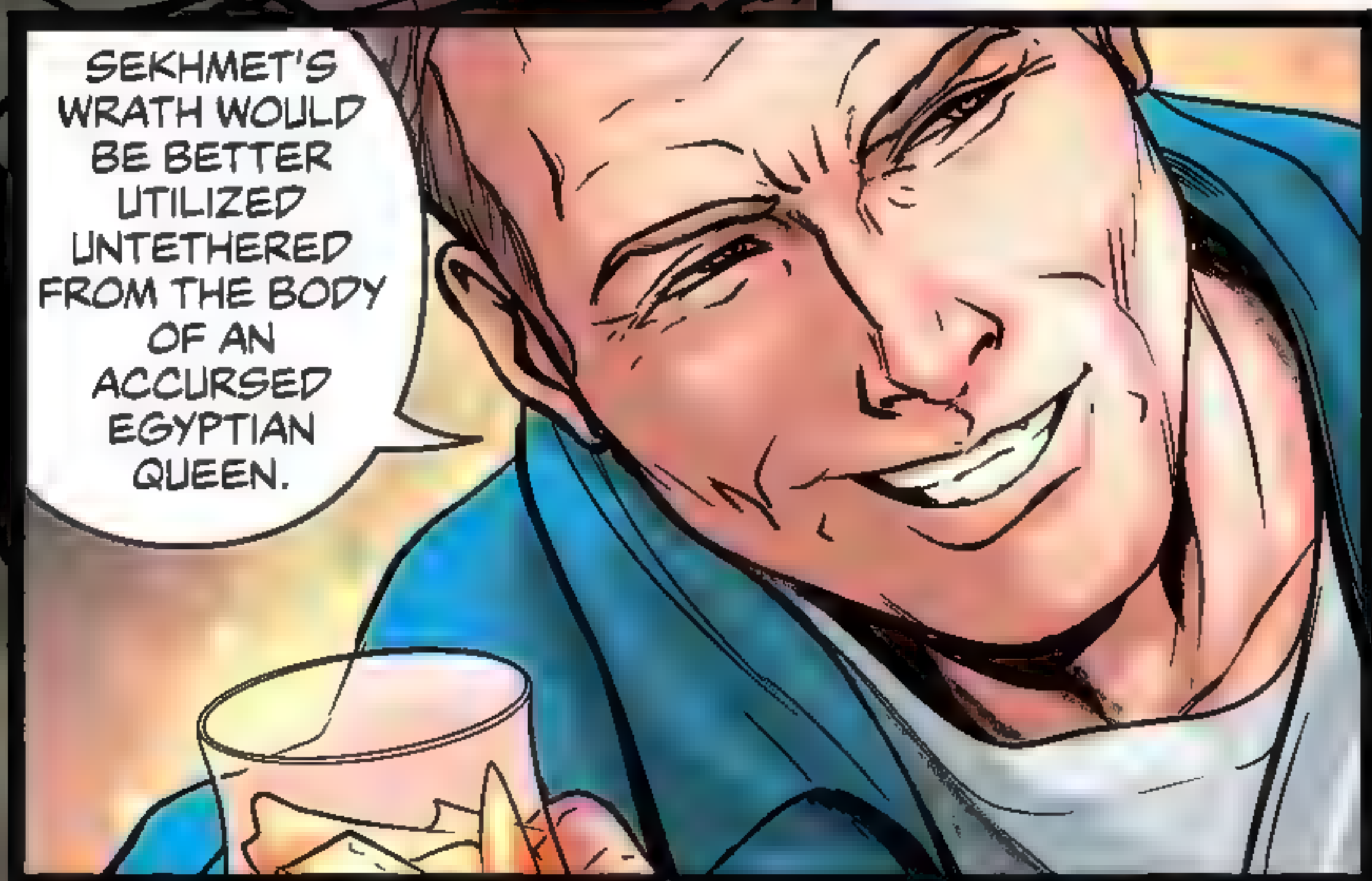
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU. WE CAME HERE IN GOOD FAITH AND YOU SCREWED US OVER!

LET'S NOT THINK OF IT AS SCREWING YOU OVER, BUT AS MY TAKING CONTROL OF A SITUATION.

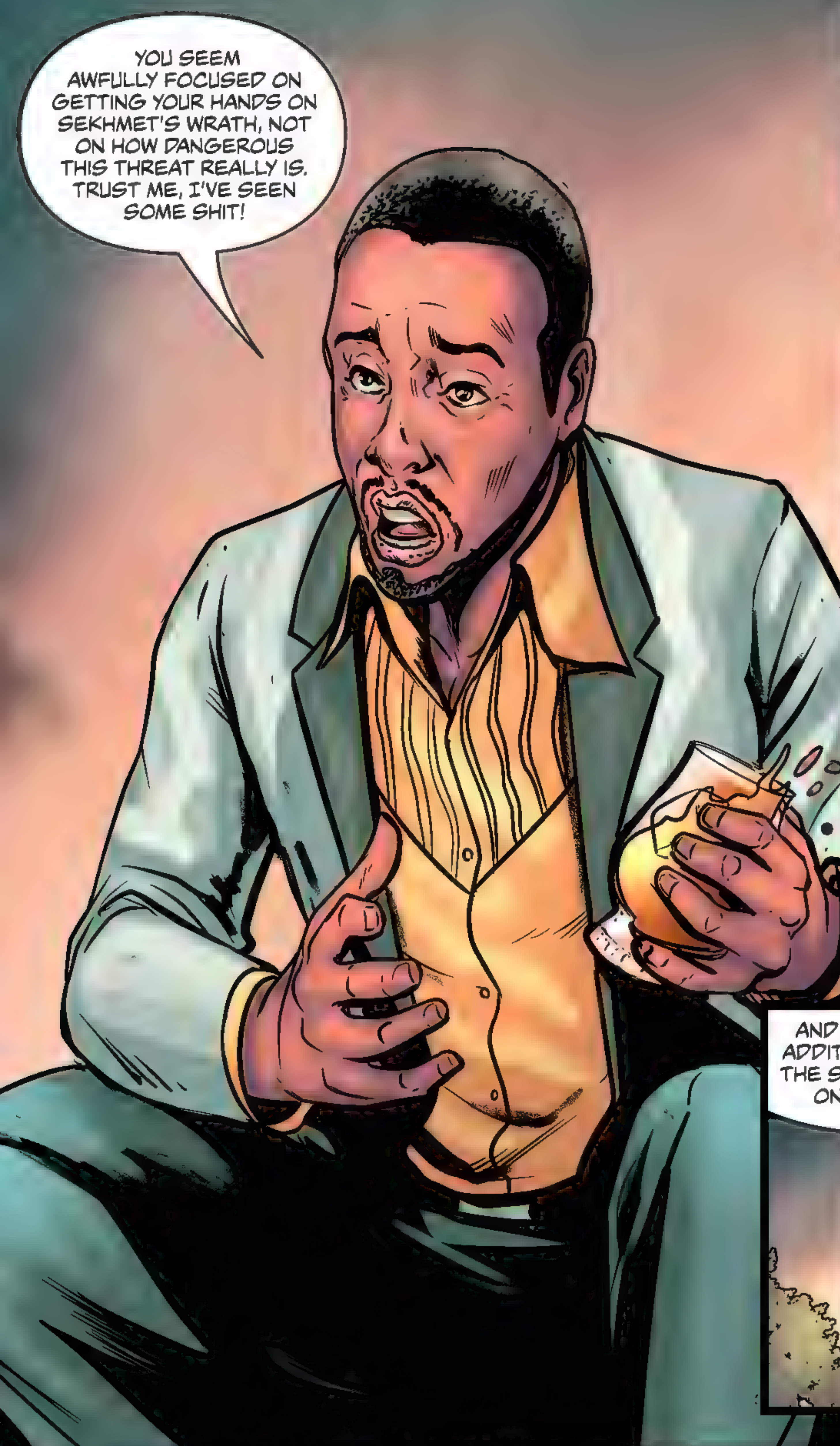
YOU DID COME TO ME FOR HELP, AFTER ALL.



YEAH, FOR HELP, NOT TO HAVE ONE OF US DRAGGED AWAY TO BE CUT UP IN SOME LAB.



SEKHMET'S WRATH WOULD BE BETTER UTILIZED UNTETHERED FROM THE BODY OF AN ACCURSED EGYPTIAN QUEEN.



YOU SEEM
AWFULLY FOCUSED ON
GETTING YOUR HANDS ON
SEKHMET'S WRATH, NOT
ON HOW DANGEROUS
THIS THREAT REALLY IS.
TRUST ME, I'VE SEEN
SOME SHIT!



I TRULY BELIEVE YOU HAVE,
NICK, BUT NOW YOU HAVE
TO TRUST *ME*.

WITH THE WRATH IN
MY POSSESSION, I CAN
CREATE A WEAPON THAT
WILL ALLOW US TO
FIGHT BACK.



AND MAYBE MAKE SOME
ADDITIONAL CABBAGE OFF
THE SALE OF SAID WEAPON
ONCE YOU'RE DONE?



OF COURSE. WHAT KIND OF BUSINESSMAN
WOULD I BE IF I LET AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE
THAT GO TO WASTE?

AND SPEAKING OF
OPPORTUNITY, I HAVE A MEETING
WITH SOME POTENTIAL CLIENTS IN
TEN MINUTES. IF YOU WOULD CARE
TO GO HANG BY THE POOL,
YOU'RE MORE THAN...



BRAKKA BRAKKA
BRAKKA BAANG
WHAT ON
EARTH...?
BR

SHIT,
THIS ISN'T
GOOD!



UKRAINE.

THE LIFE FORCE OF THE GOD, SET,
IS TAKEN INTO THE BODY OF THE
INSECT DRONE AND TRANSMITTED
BACK TO ITS MASTER.

THE GREAT TA-NAKHT GRUMBLES ITS
SATISFACTION IN ITS NEST OF BECOMING,
DEEP BENEATH THE PLACE OF DEATH--

THE GODLY SUSTENANCE
BRINGING IT THAT MUCH
CLOSER TO ITS PURPOSE.

IT WILL USE THE LIFE OF THESE
DEITIES TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY.
FROM THEIR LIVES, A NEW AGE OF
GODS WILL SPRING--

--DARK GODS TO
RESHAPE THE WORLD IN THEIR
MAGNIFICENT IMAGE.





"YES...IT'S OBVIOUS WE
NEED THE WRATH NOW,
MORE THAN EVER."

THE WRATH IS A TERRIBLE
THING TO BEHOLD, AN ANGRY,
SEETHING MASS OF MUSCLE
AND SINEW, EBONY FUR, FANGS
AND CLAWS. IT IS THE ANGER
OF A GOD PERSONIFIED.

ROOOARRRGGH

AND IT VERY WELL
MAY BE THE GODS'---
AND HUMANITY'S--- LAST
HOPE FOR SURVIVAL.

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

BUT IT IS UNTAMED,
UNPREDICTABLE, A DANGER
TO ALL WHO COME IN
CONTACT WITH IT.

CRUNNCHH

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

**GLASSSSSHH--
SPLURCHH**

IT WILL NEED TO BE
HONED... TEMPERED, IF IT IS
TO BE OF ANY USE.

WWHHHP

BUT WHO WILL BE
ITS MASTER?

GRRRRRRRGGHH

THAT FATE HAS YET TO
BE DETERMINED.



FIRST, IT MUST SURVIVE.

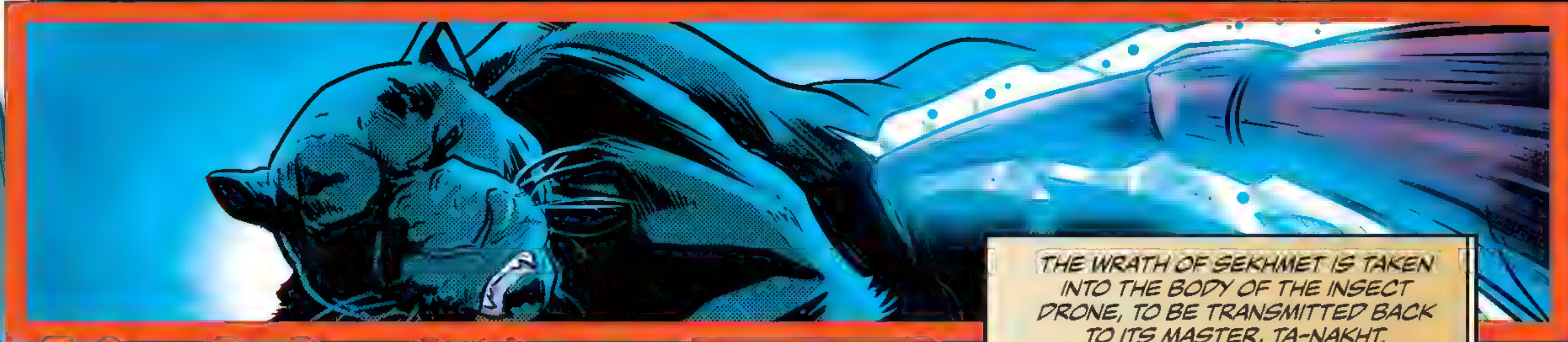


IT WILL NEED ALL ITS STRENGTH AND CUNNING TO EVADE THE GOD-EATER, TA-NAKHT.



FOR ITS POWER ADDED TO THE DARK FORCE WOULD SURELY BRING THE WORLD THAT MUCH CLOSER TO THE END.



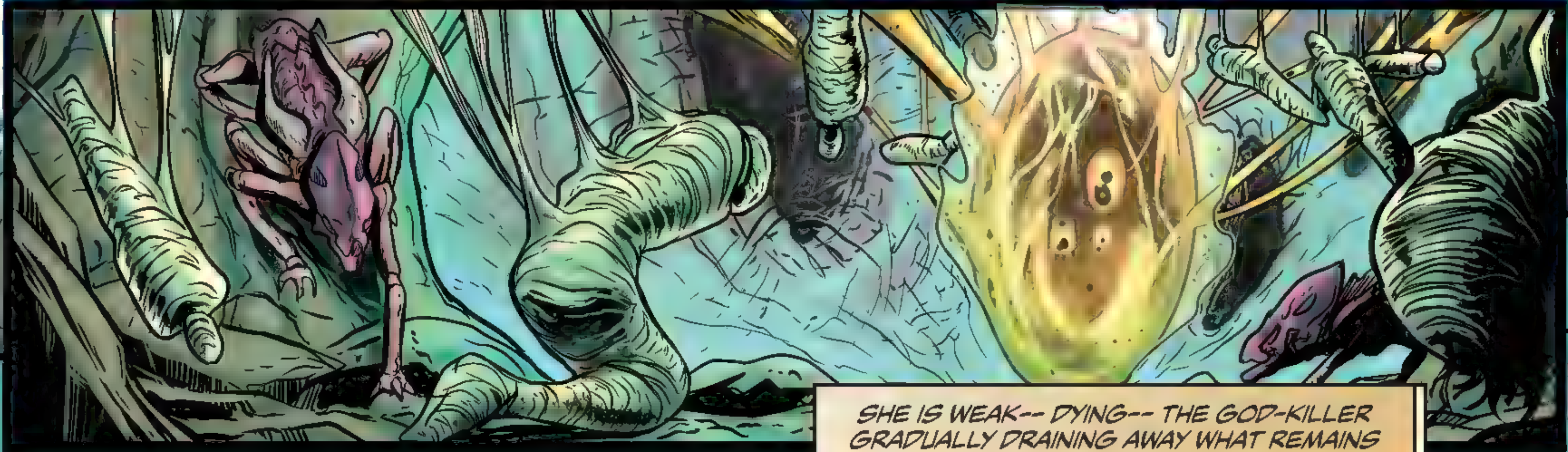


THE WRATH OF SEKHMET IS TAKEN INTO THE BODY OF THE INSECT DRONE, TO BE TRANSMITTED BACK TO ITS MASTER, TA-NAKHT.

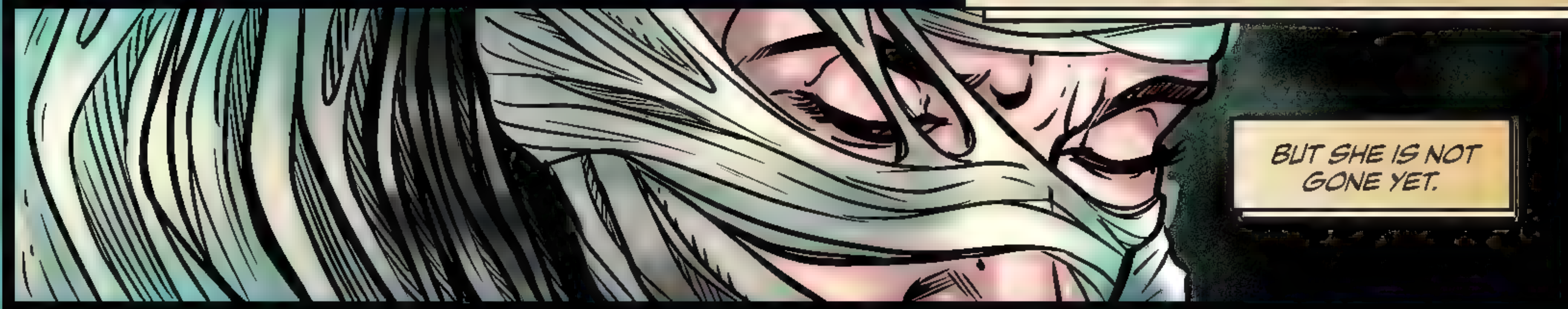
THOUGH HAVING GIVEN UP HER GODLY FURY MILLENIA AGO, THE GODDESS STILL FEELS THE CONNECTION, A BOND WITH WHAT WAS ONCE HERS.



SAMIRA...
NO!



SHE IS WEAK-- DYING-- THE GOD-KILLER GRADUALLY DRAINING AWAY WHAT REMAINS OF HER DIVINE LIFE STUFF.



BUT SHE IS NOT GONE YET.

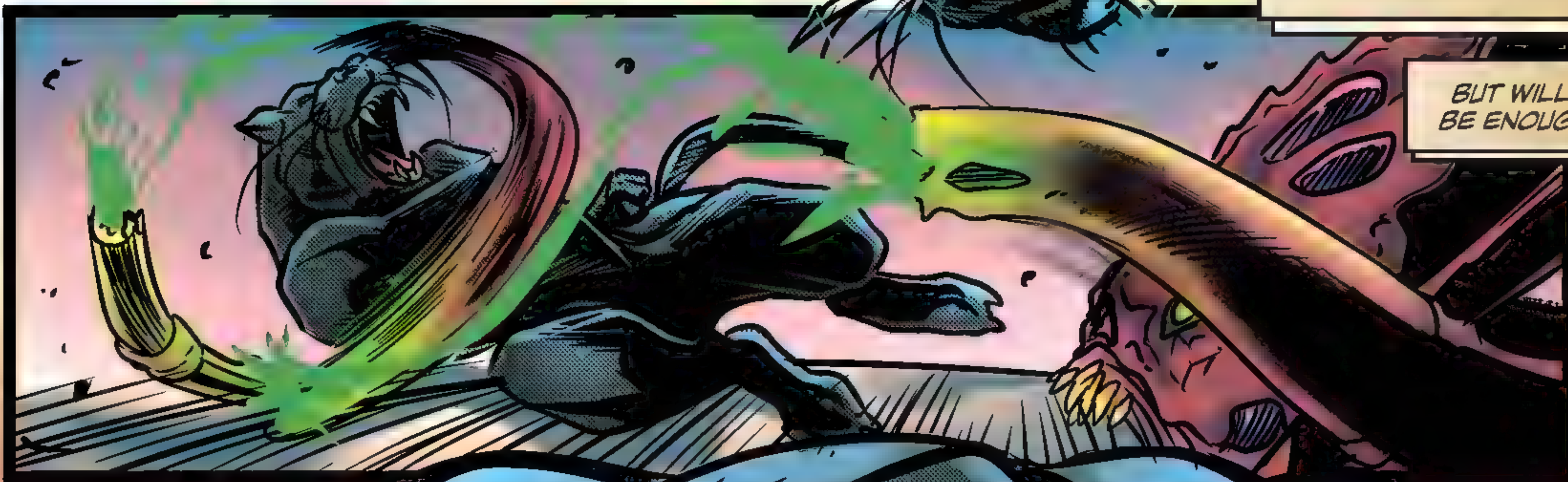
USING THE TETHER TO HER WRATH THAT STILL EXISTS, TO CONVEY BACK TO THE SOURCE...



.....A SPARK OF
GODLY MIGHT...



....THAT COULD ROUSE THIS
POTENTIAL EMISSARY OF THE
GODS TO ESCAPE THE
CLUTCHES OF THEIR FOE.



BUT WILL IT
BE ENOUGH?

AS SHE SLIPS
ONCE AGAIN INTO
UNCONSCIOUSNESS,
THE GODDESS
CERTAINLY HOPES SO.





A WORD OF
ADVICE, DON'T
LET THEM STICK
YOU WITH THEIR
TAILS.

I KINDA
FIGURED, BUT
NOTED.

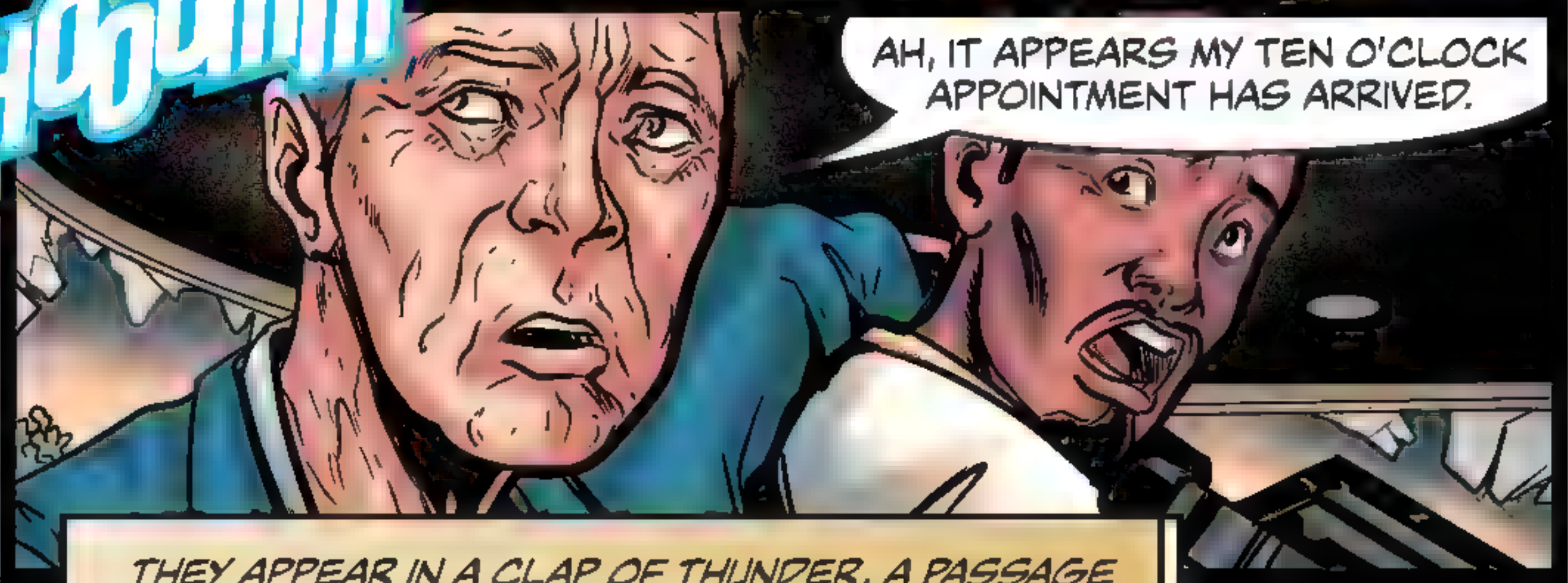
ANY CHANCE THAT
YOU MIGHT MUSTER
ANOTHER BURST OF
THAT CELESTIAL
FIRE?

I'M BARELY
MANAGING TO
STAND, NEVER
MIND...

BLAM

THOOM!

AH, IT APPEARS MY TEN O'CLOCK
APPOINTMENT HAS ARRIVED.



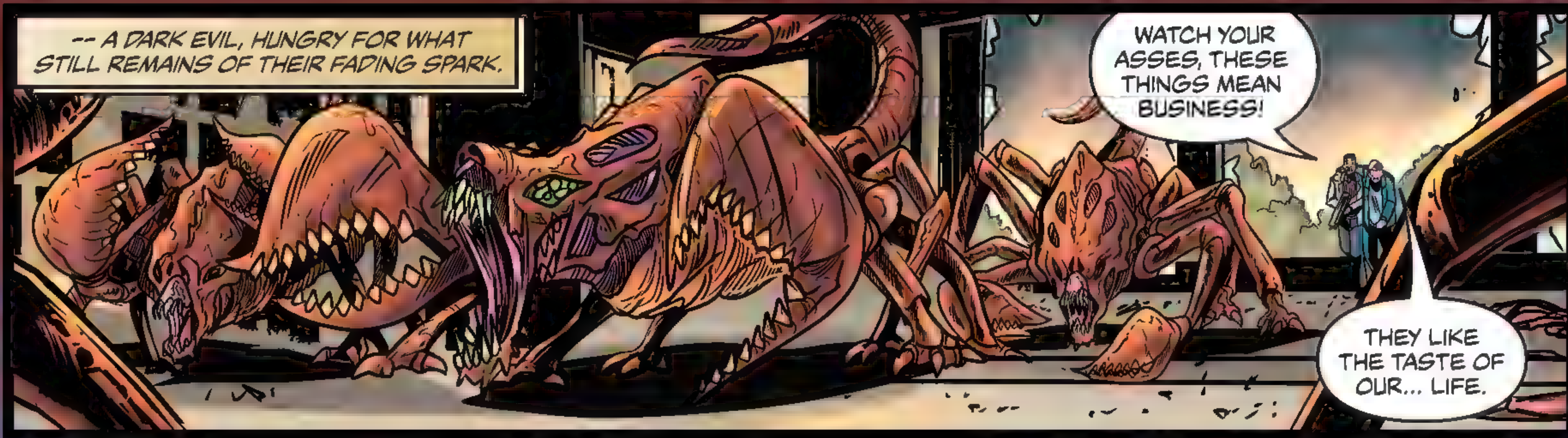
THEY APPEAR IN A CLAP OF THUNDER, A PASSAGE
IN REALITY OPENING FROM HERE TO THERE.

GODS OF THE ANCIENT PAST JOINED TOGETHER
UNDER THE BELIEF THAT THEIR TIME IN
EXISTENCE WAS AT AN END, AND AS THEY WERE
NO LONGER REMEMBERED, WOULD FADE
GRACEFULLY FROM REALITY.



THEY CALL THEMSELVES
MORTALISTS.

BUT SOMETHING HAS ROUSED
THESE ANCIENTS FROM
THEIR CONTEMPLATIVE STATES--



-- A DARK EVIL, HUNGRY FOR WHAT STILL REMAINS OF THEIR FADING SPARK.

WATCH YOUR ASSES, THESE THINGS MEAN BUSINESS!

THEY LIKE THE TASTE OF OUR... LIFE.



SOMETHING THAT IS TRYING TO TAKE AWAY THEIR CHOICE TO FADE FROM MEMORY GRACEFULLY.

IF NO ONE IS USING THIS...

GOOD THING I BROUGHT MY OWN.

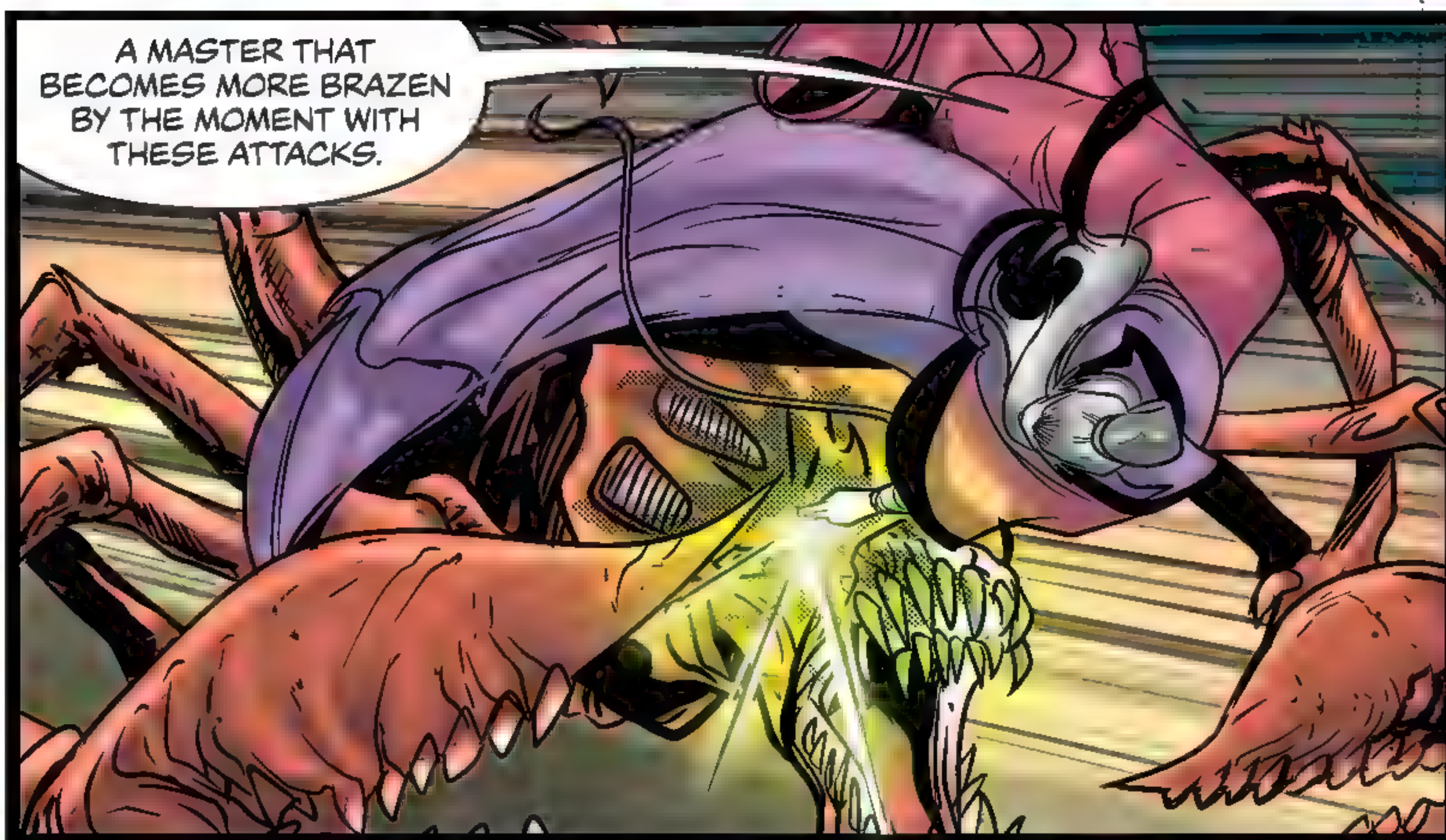
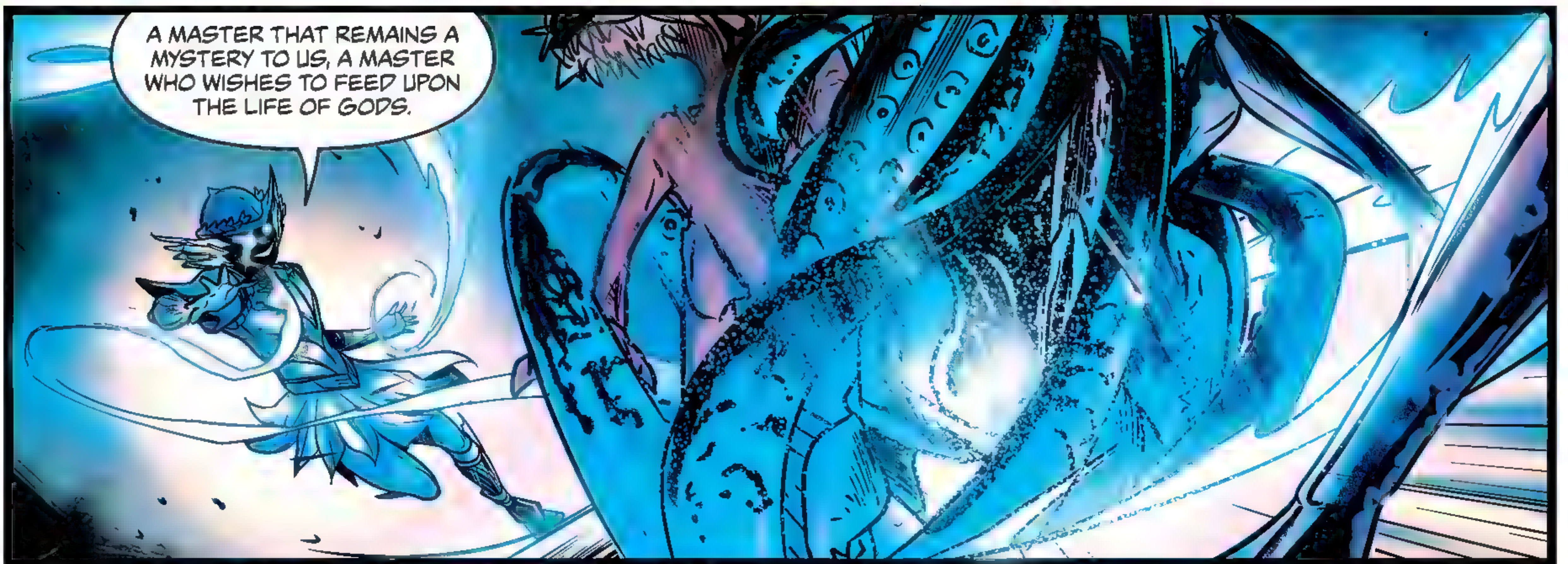


FORCING THEM TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO PASS FROM THIS EXISTENCE THE WAY THEY CHOOSE.



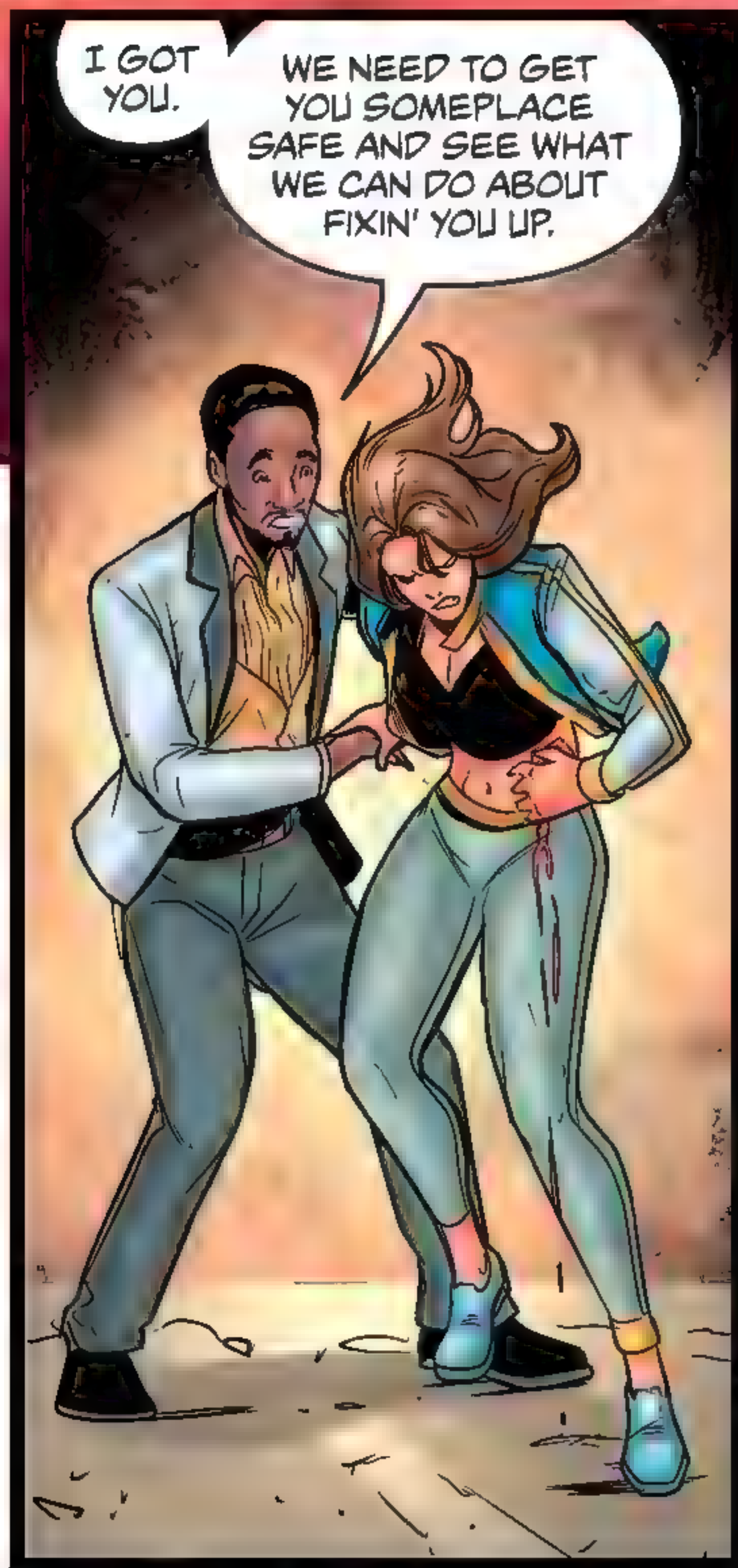
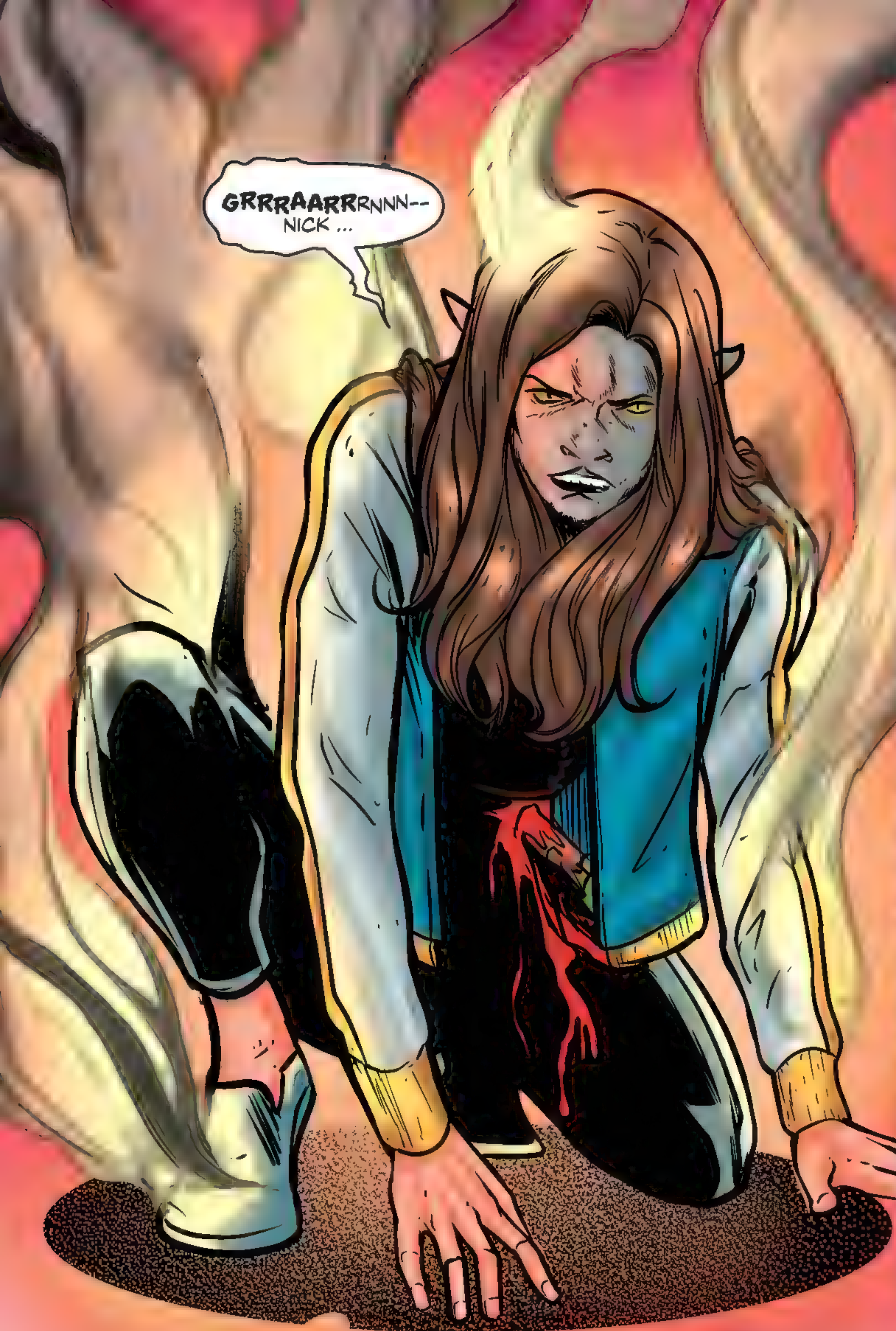
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

LESSER GODS. THEY CONTACTED ME ABOUT ACQUIRING SOME... WEAPONRY.











SOMNUS,
IF YOU WOULD
BE SO
KIND?

FROM THE
LOOKS OF HER
CONDITION, SHE WILL
NEED TO BE HEALED,
AND HEALED
IMMEDIATELY.

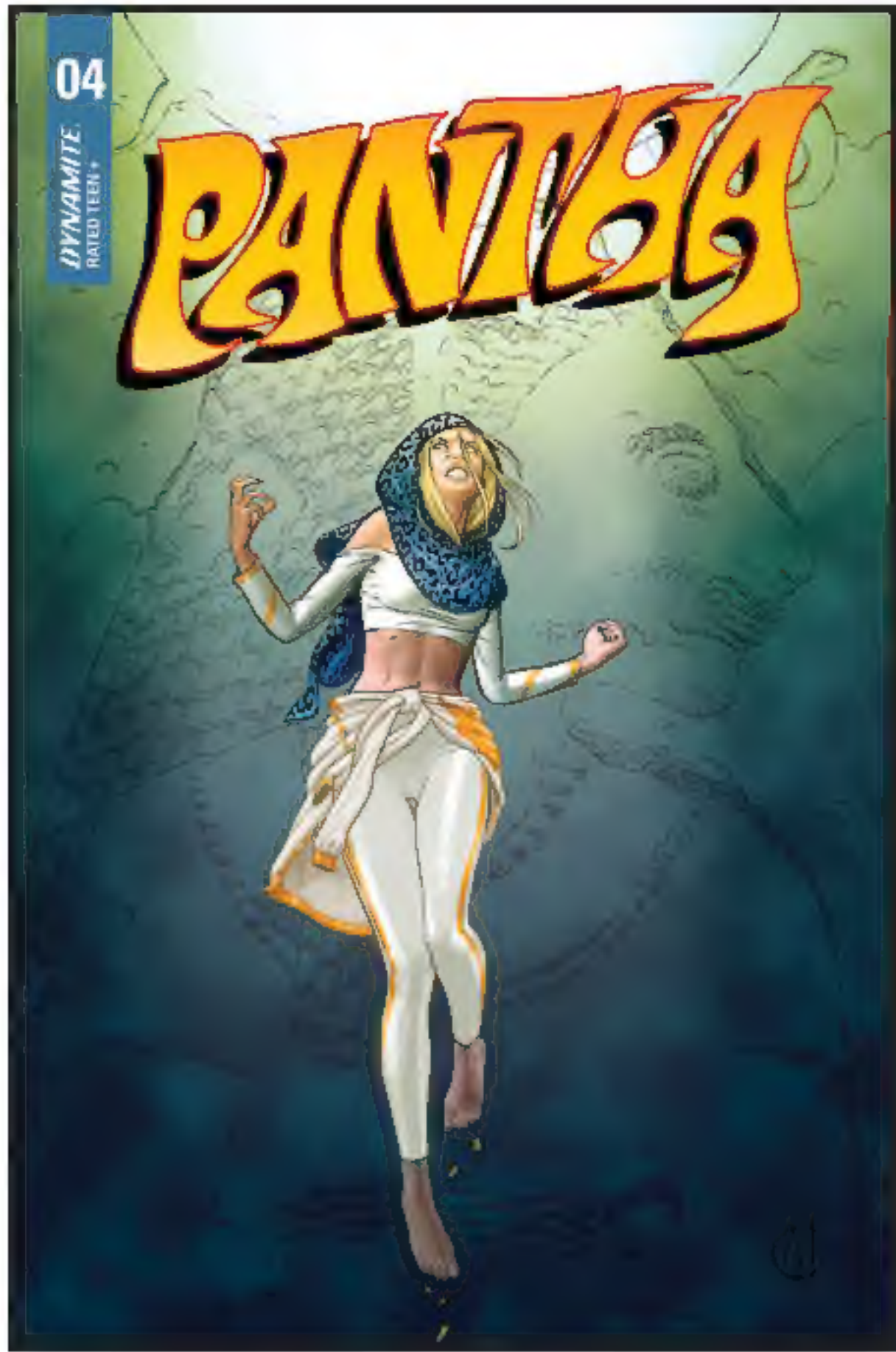
I KNOW
JUST THE
PLACE TO
GO.

"WE HAVE IT SET UP FOR
JUST THIS REASON."

THOUGH THE
MASTER OF THE
HOUSE HATES
COMPANY...



NEXT:
OH, WOE
IS US!



NEXT ISSUE

Gravely injured from her battle with Ta-Nakht's newest insect drones, Pantha and Nick escape to the Mortalists' safe house, the House of Woe. But there may be a traitor in their midst, one of their own who will use their greatest fears against them as they prepare for the final confrontation with the god-eater that is Ta-Nakht.

WRITER JORDAN CLARK TAKES FANS BACK IN TIME TO OLD JAPAN IN SAMURAI SONJA

Jordan, what drew you to tell a tale of Samurai Sonja, among all the unique multiversal variants that fans got to see in Sonjaversal and Hell Sonja?

Christopher Hastings, Pasquale, and Nate have done an incredible job creating all these variants of Red Sonja that retain the core elements that fans love, but open a whole new world of adventure. So racking my brain for something fans haven't seen yet, a samurai variant immediately jumped out. I've always been enamored by samurai lore, so it's been a blast to craft this version of Sonja.

The book is taking place in the Sengoku period of Japan, circa 1467 to 1615. For those less familiar with the history, how would you describe this era and how it relates to our protagonist?

The Sengoku was a very turbulent time in Japan's history. After the previous government collapsed, Japan was consumed in a nearly constant civil war with various clans and daimyos vying for power. Some of the most notable samurai in history were active during this time. Sonja will be fighting to make her name amongst them and continue her family's legacy as great warriors.

Though nestled into a period of real-world history, Red Sonja comics are of course fantasy. Can we expect to see some exciting mythical monsters or other fantastical elements?

Not to give too much away, but one of the most fun things so far has been going through Japan's rich folklore to find creatures that can test Sonja's skill. There's going to be some well-known monsters in there, but also some fun deep cuts as well.

Samurai stories, real and fictional, have quite the legacy in film and comics — primarily via manga, where samurais lived and fought years ago. Are you pulling from any key influences in crafting this latest entry into that legacy?

I'm a huge Akira Kurosawa fan. Seven Samurai, Yojimbo, Rashomon are such incredible stories and are definitely influences on this. I also wanted to pull from the real history of female samurai (onna-bugeisha) and the legendary warrior Tomoe Gozen. Visually, I grew up on Samurai Jack, so that's something I revisited, especially for ideas for fight sequences. And the Vagabond manga by Takehiko Inoue is an epic master class that all samurai comics are measured against. So I've been studying that pretty intently.

COVER GALLERY



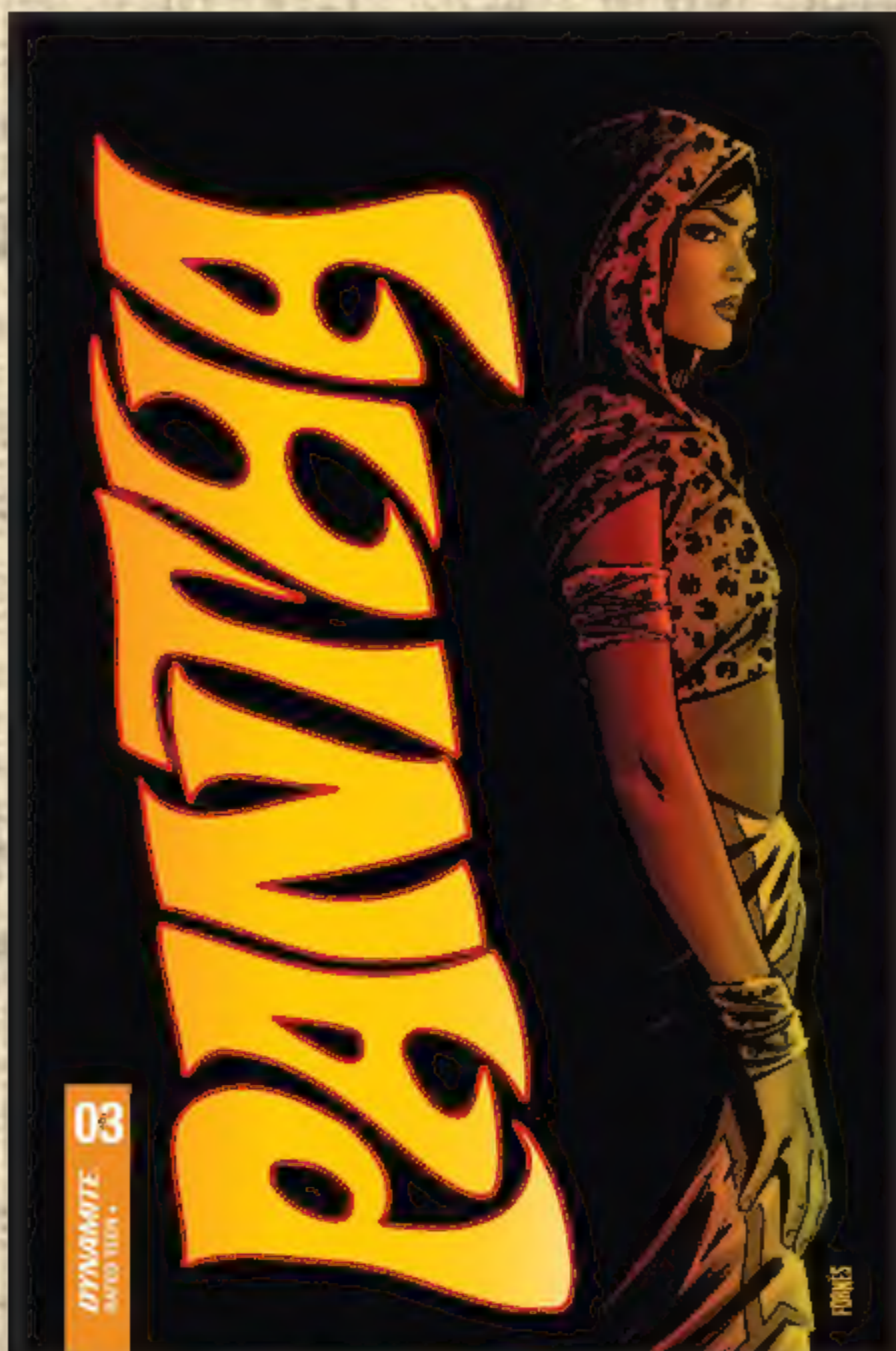
COVER A
art by GIUSEPPE MATTEONI



COVER B
art by VINCENT ASEO



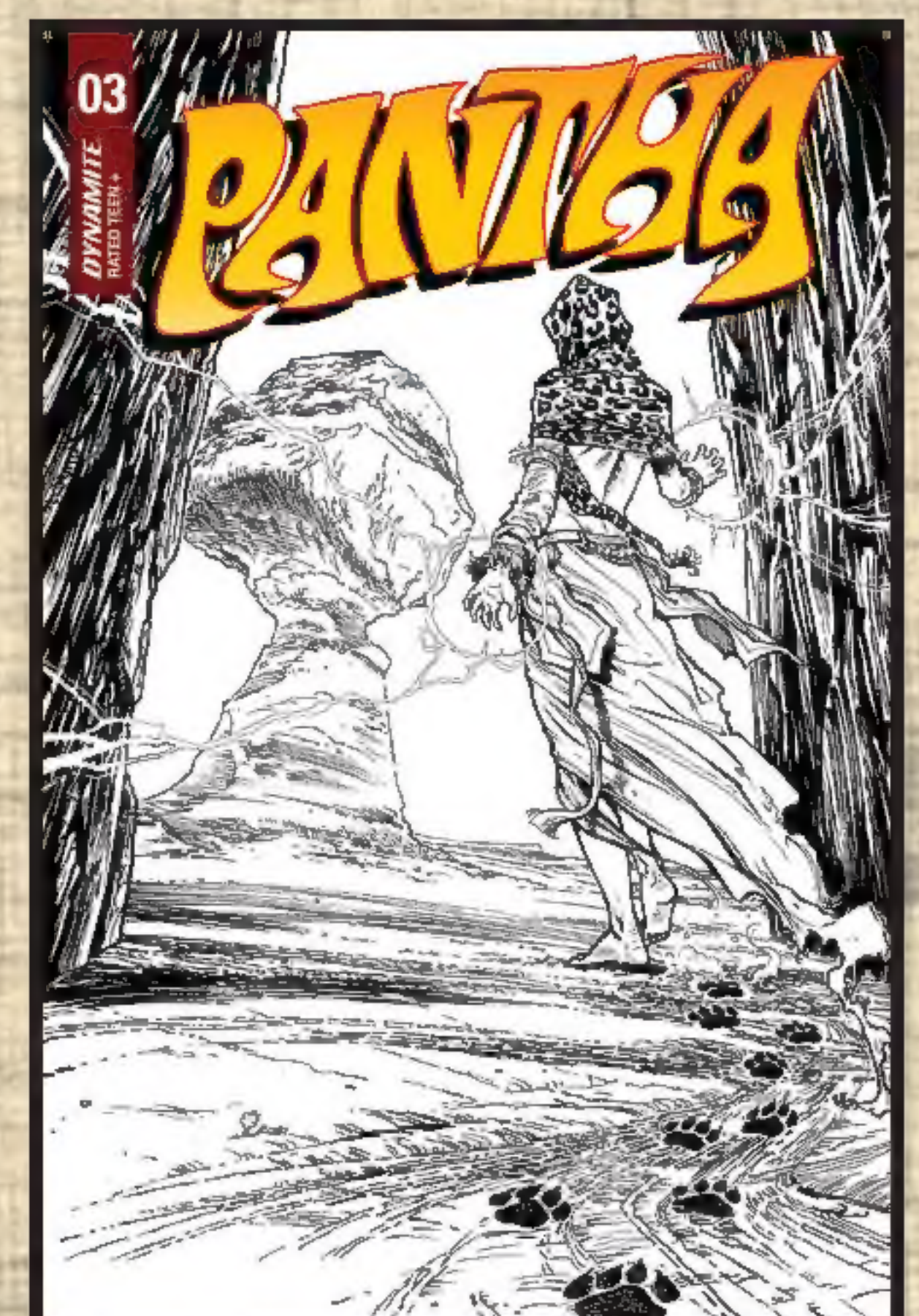
COVER C
art by ELENA PIANTA
color by IVAN NUNES



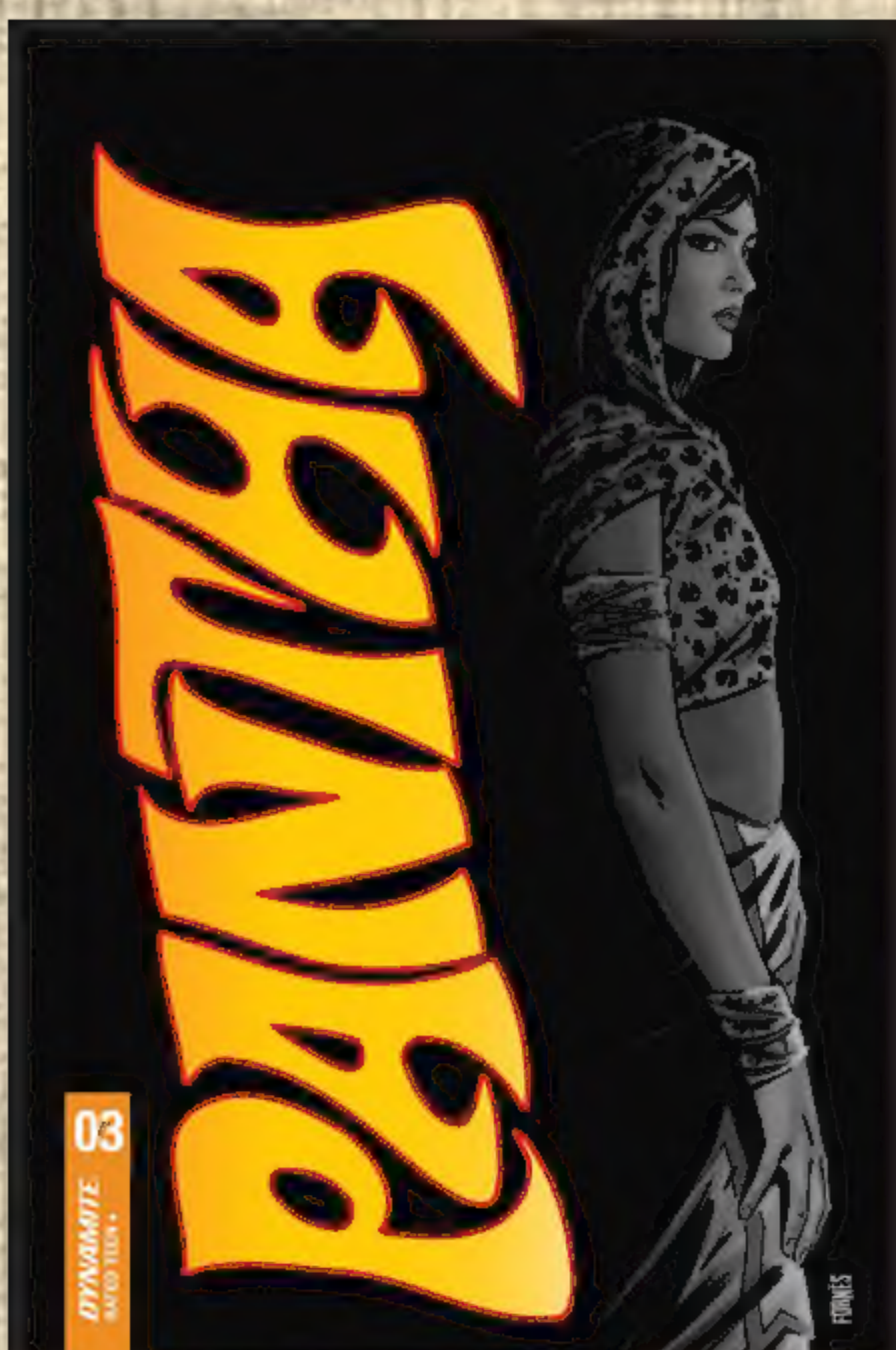
COVER D
art by JORGE FORNES



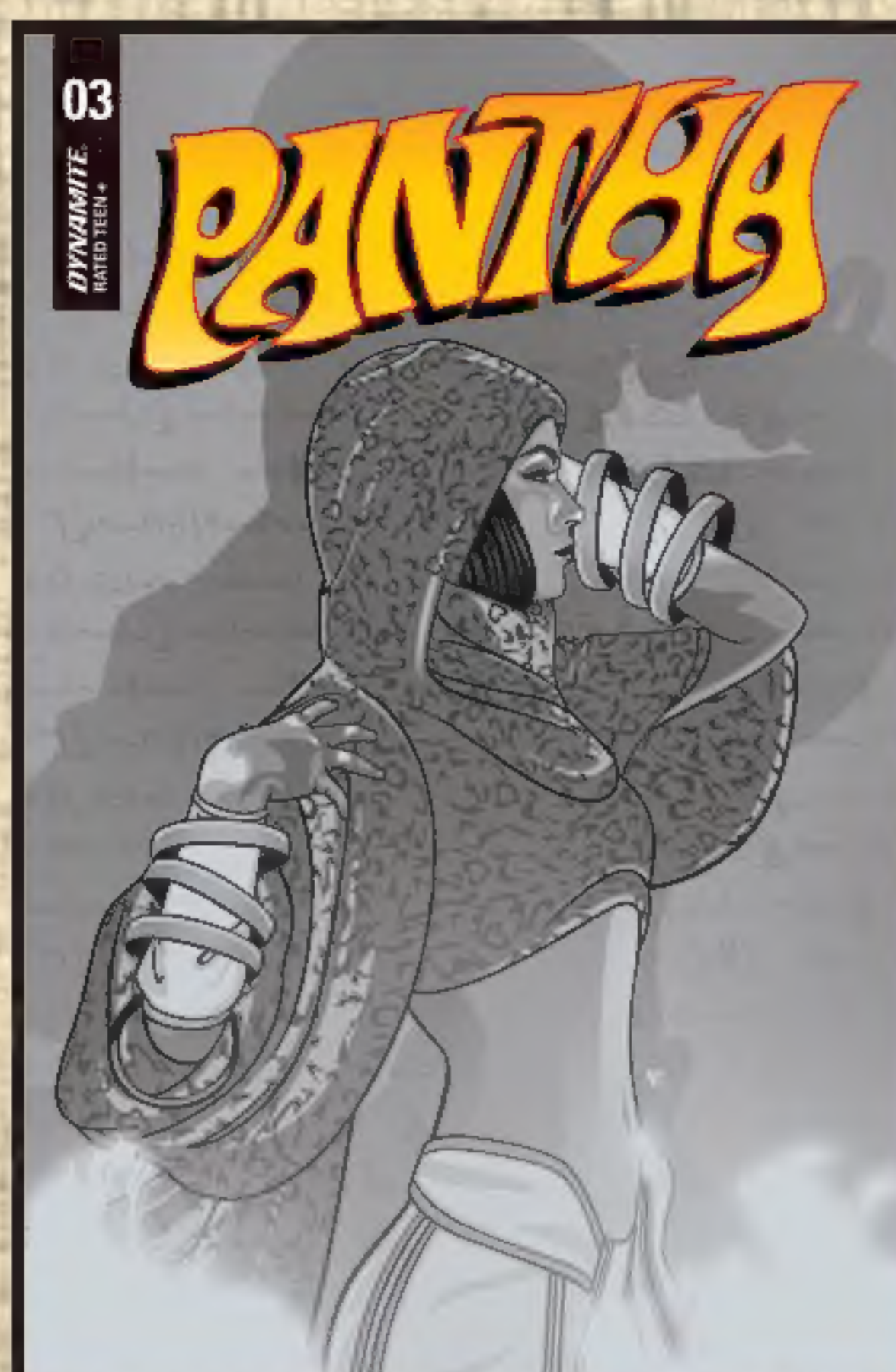
COVER E
art by AL BARRIONUEVO
color by SIGMUND TORRE



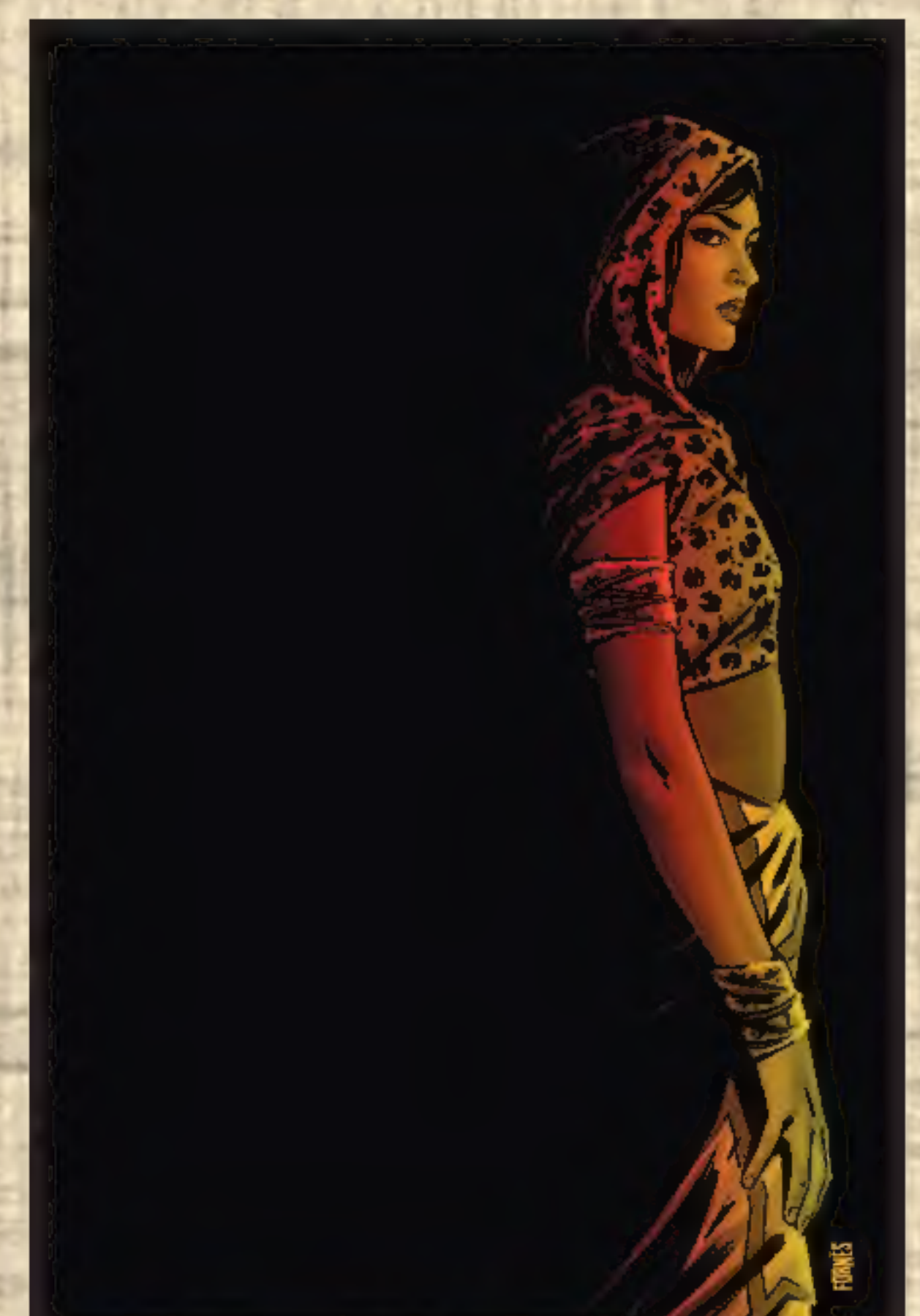
COVER F
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INCENTIVE COVER
art by ELENA PIANTA



COVER G
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INCENTIVE COVER
art by JORGE FORNES



COVER H
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INCENTIVE COVER
art by VINCENT ASEO

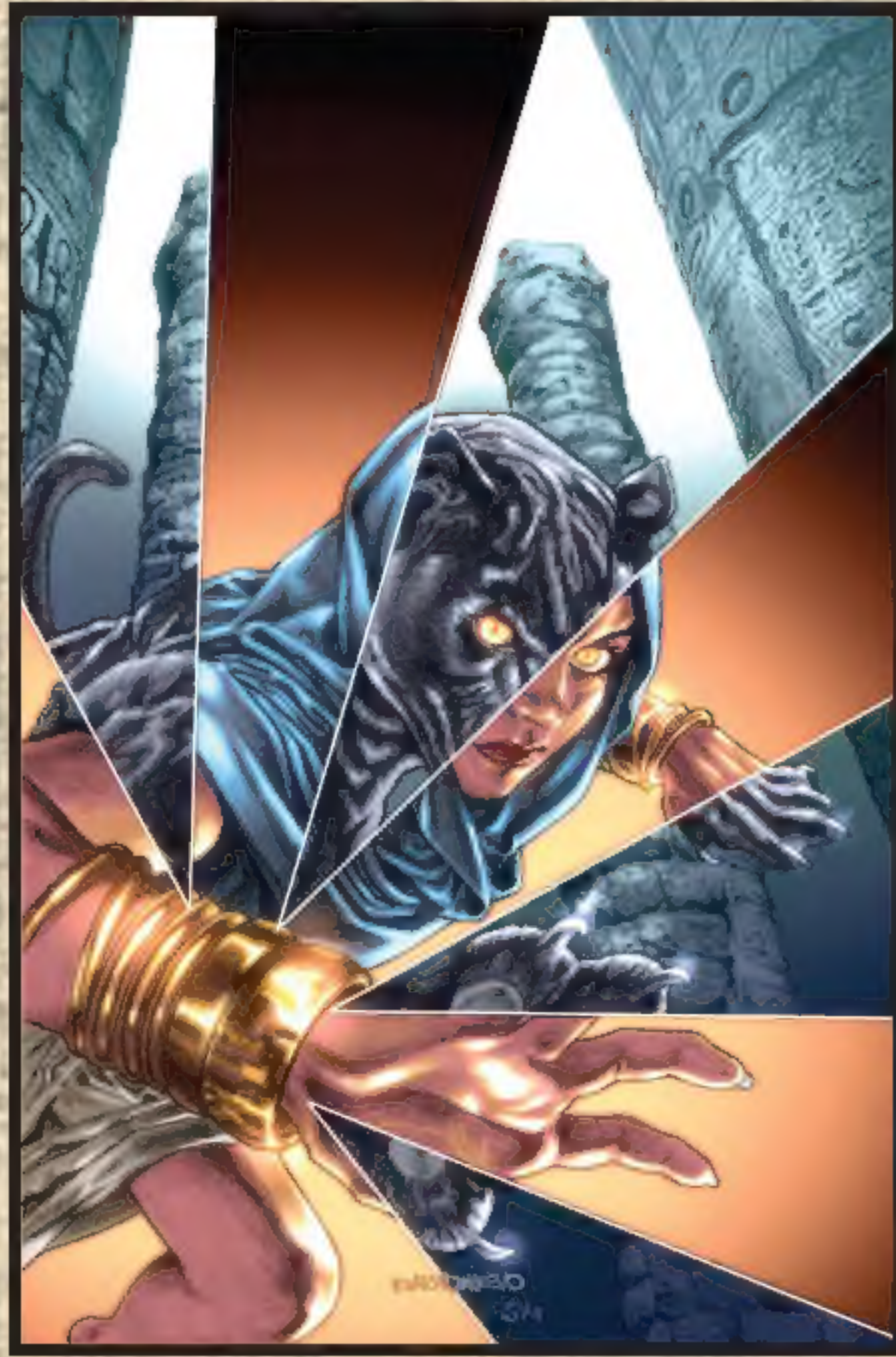


COVER I
25 COPY VIRGIN
INCENTIVE COVER
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COVER GALLERY



COVER J
LIMITED EDITION COVER
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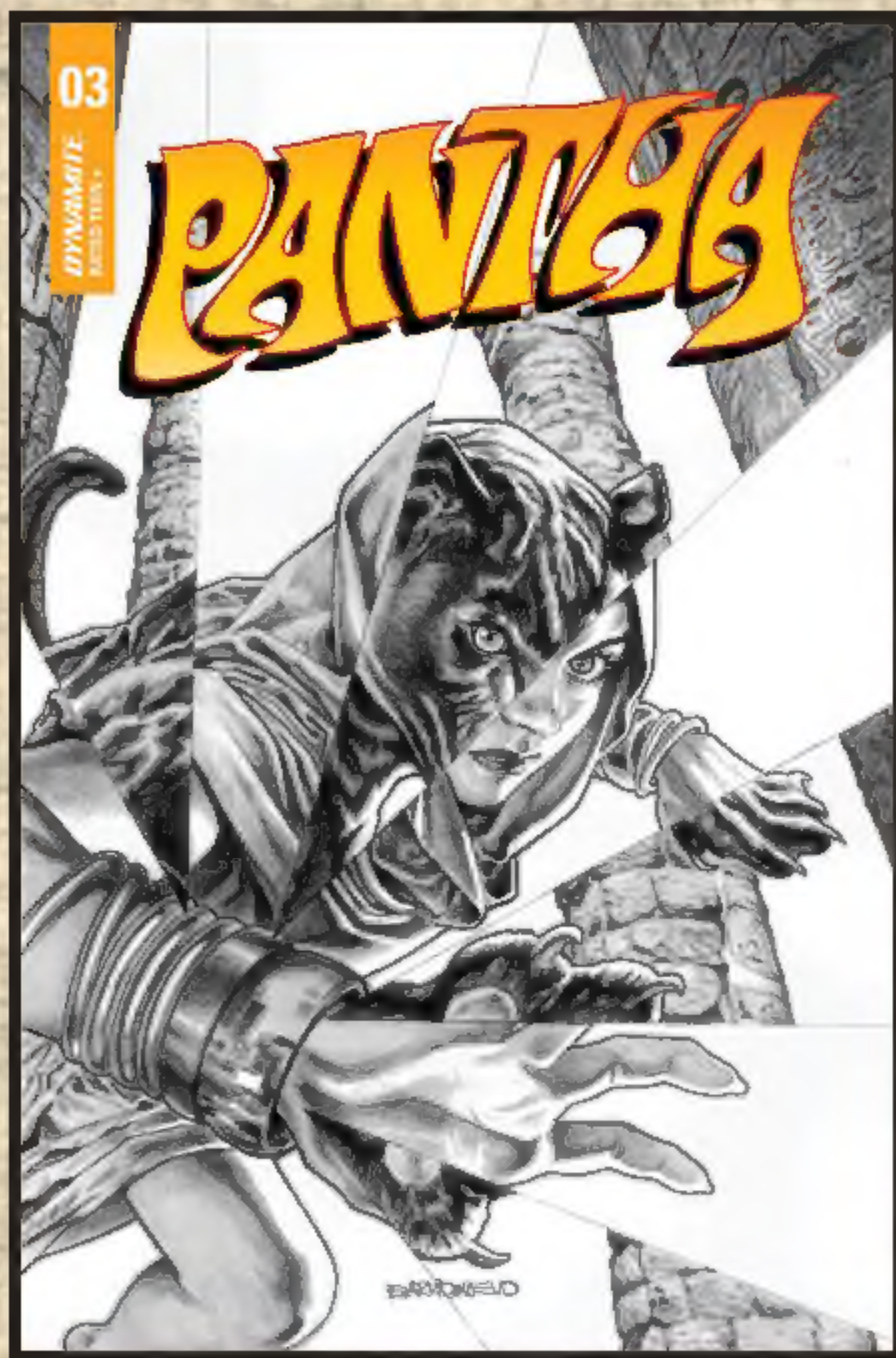
COVER K
LIMITED EDITION COVER
art by **AL BARRIONUEVO**
color by **SIGMUND TORRE**



COVER L
FOC BONUS STREET COVER
art by **MEGHAN HETRICK**



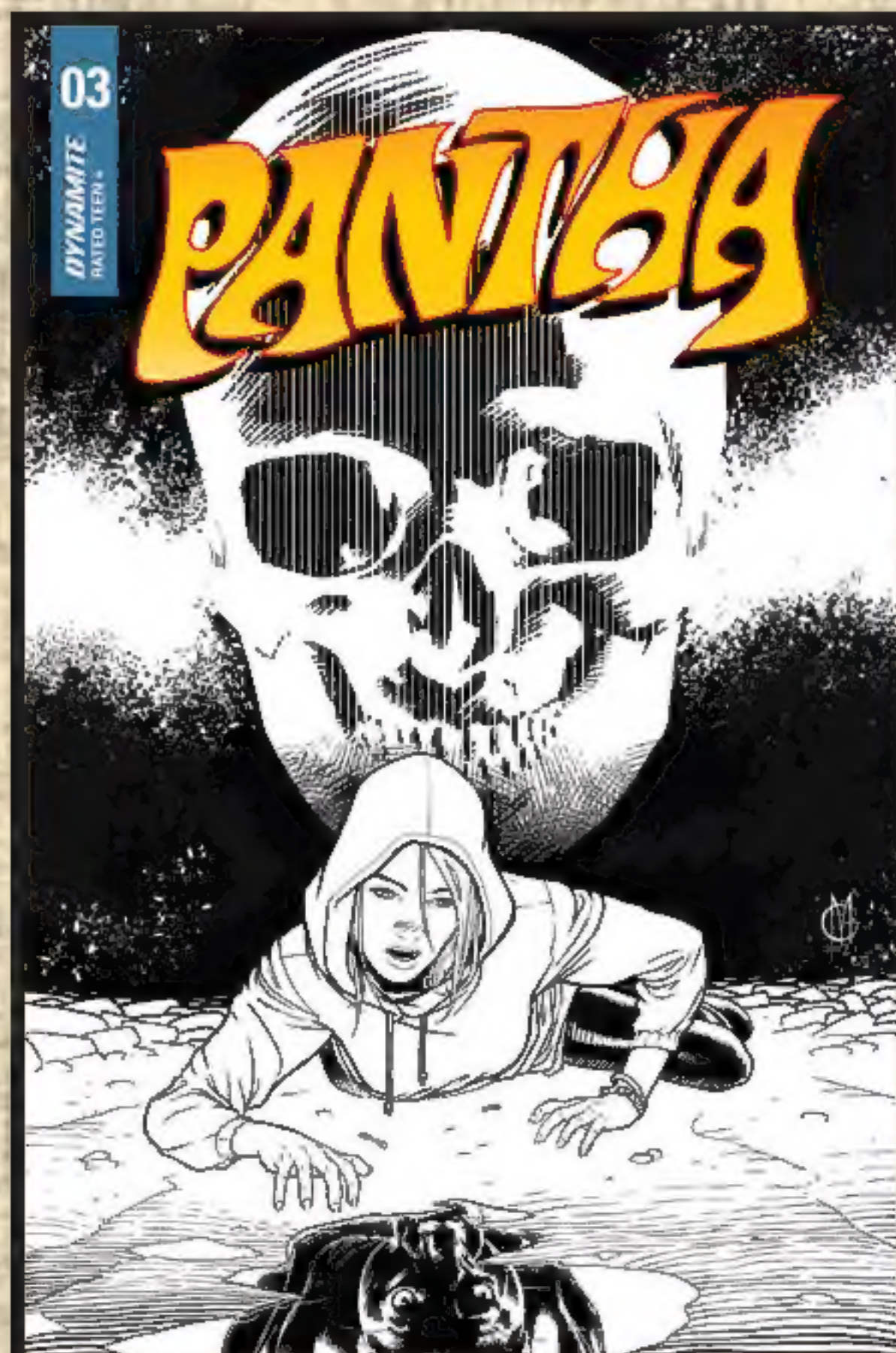
COVER M
FOC 7 COPY VIRGIN
INCENTIVE COVER
art by **ELENA PIANTA**
color by **IVAN NUNES**



COVER N
FOC 7 COPY B&W
INCENTIVE COVER
art by **AL BARRIONUEVO**



COVER O
FOC 11 COPY VIRGIN
STREET COVER
art by **MEGHAN HETRICK**



COVER P
FOC 11 COPY B&W
INCENTIVE COVER
art by **GIUSEPPE MATTEONI**



COVER Q
FOC 15 COPY VIRGIN
INCENTIVE COVER
art by **VINCENT ASEO**

D.R. & QUINCH

